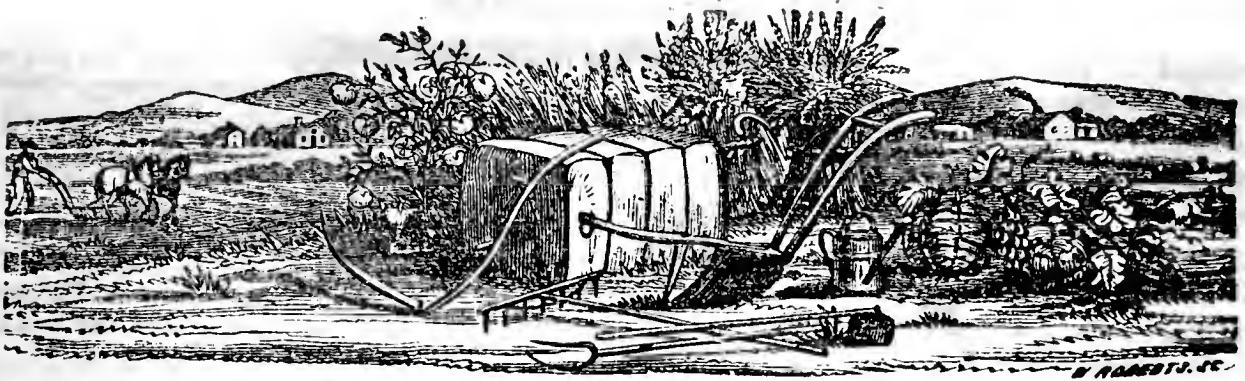


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# THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VIII.

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No. X.

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For the Farmer and Planter.

## Weeds---Continued.

MR. EDITOR:—We are about to reverse Nature's rotation by following "Weeds" with Broomsedge, for we are not willing to give up our position without more convincing arguments than any yet advanced.

You make allusion to Mr. Ruffin's remark, that "the pea was the clover of the South."—Use it as the North does clover, and it may partially answer the purpose. Prepare your land by plowing and harrowing, grow peas, sow plaster freely upon them, and turn them under without pasturing, and they may open the way for improving land, but they never can fill the place of clover, which protects the soil during winter and summer, from sun and rain.

But to weeds. You "regard weeds as great

exhausters, "because they are fibrous rooted and feed upon the surface soil." Where do the weeds get their support from—the air and the earth. Well, if they die and return to the earth what they received from it, can they exhaust it more than the pea?

You say "the nourishing qualities of the pea to animals, is a proof that it contains nourishment for the land." We should rather say that it was a proof that it took it from the land, for it could only get carbonic acid and ammonia from the atmosphere. By a judicious use of the pea, you may ameliorate the condition of your soil, and by using it to store up carbon and nitrogen received from the atmosphere and rains, and the lime, potass, soda, &c., drawn up from the soil as available food for other plants to follow; but then you are at the end of your row, for you have added no fertilizing materials not available to other plants.

By fertilization we mean restoring the elements of plants which have been taken from the soil by repeated workings. By amelioration we mean any process of rest, or rotation, or green crops, by which the food of plants, now in the soil, may be husbanded for future use, or made more available. But we set out to discuss weeds, not peas and rotations.

Now, my dear sir, we would like to know where you get the idea, that "weeds are fibrous rooted"—have you pulled up many for experiment sake, and even admitting they are fibrous rooted and gross feeders, why object to them if they return it to the soil.

Your zeal has got the better of your discretion in the mad tilt you have made against Nature as a fertilizer. "Nature, if left to herself,

Produces her own progeny in swarms and millions—more than she can yield milk from her bosom to support." Hear the old man, eloquent!

Well, then, let her alone—let them die and rot, to enrich the earth whence they sprang—that is their province—Nature would have provided for their support, but for this. No, my dear sir, tillage is an unnatural operation—it is warring against Nature all the time, not to feed Nature, but to supply the artificial wants of man. Thou shalt earn thy bread by the sweat of the brow, was the stern mandate sent forth in the beginning—it has never been revoked. Then go to work when your land becomes covered with a thick coat of weeds—make the best of it, turn them under in the green state, for it is all a mistake to talk about "green vegetable matter being evanescent as a shower of rain."

You point to "our worn out, turned out old fields and gullied territory, as a proof of your theory. The fields never would have been worn out or gullied, if you had allowed weeds and broomsedge to retain possession. You have pitched the carcass over the fence without even flesh enough upon it to support the life of anything. Come, my good sir, stick to your text, give us the proof that weeds exhaust land more than any other crop grown upon it, and give us one sensible reason why, if a weed is an exhauster—ergo rich in the fertilizing elements of plants—why it is not as much an improver when returned to the soil by artificial means, as the pea or anything else?

We are not disposed to deal in rhetorical flourishes, but want to come down to matters of fact. "The very fact that China supports half (one-fourth would have been nearer,) of the globe, is a proof of the perfection they have arrived at in the culture of the earth."

Well, this is a smasher—*supports!* on rice, rats, lizards, frogs, everything, at 3 cents per day for labor—support indeed, and when the population increases too fast, orders are issued to drown the babies. Glorious country, that! Where human beings are worth so little that they do all the drudgery of horses and mules, and where the implements they work with are about such as Cain worked with when he went to farming in the land of Nod. The population of Africa amounts to about 62,000,000 equaling a population of 5 to each square mile. The population of Judia about 157,000,000, or 28 to the square mile.

"The very fact, that the agriculture" of these two countries, embracing the most fertile soil

in the world, "supports more than 200,000,000 of people, one-fourth the people of the world," is a proof of the perfection they have arrived at in the culture of the earth." The argument is just as good in one case as the other.

England, the landed aristocracy of England can very well afford to subsoil, underdrain, guanoize and quadruple their crops—they have the best markets in the world—a teeming population at home—they own the soil, it cannot be taken from them, and they own the laborers too, without the expense of Doctor's bills, old age and decrepitude staring them in the face. They have only to threaten to dismiss their tenantry (slaves) to bring them to terms.

We are not inclined to go into rhapsodies over Great Britain, it may be a great country for gentry, but where out of 4,908,698 children in England and Wales between the ages of 3 and 15, not more than 600,000 remain at school till they are nine years old, while 2,861,862 never attend school, and where there are 800 school masters and mistresses who cannot write their own names to their returns. We rather think these statistics tell against her claim to be set up as a beacon light.

The paragraph extracted from an English work, proves nothing against our position. No man would be ninny enough to advocate the *culture of weeds*. It requires no Solomon to tell that "when land is foul, producing weeds, it is impossible artificial plants, such as corn, (wheat) or grass can thrive."

If you wish to produce a large return of any artificial crop, you must kill and keep down all weeds and grasses—even your pea and clover—but when the land is at rest—when the crop of corn, cotton or wheat has been harvested, we would prefer to see the soil taken by weeds and grasses, to leaching and washing away, as well as being scorched by the sun. Did you ever know a field exhausted by being turned out to weeds under fence? If you can show us a better and cheaper substitute, we will be glad to embrace it, but we are determined to hold you to the text, "weeds are exhausters, and throw the *onus probandi* upon your shoulders.

But, my dear sir, we are getting alarmed at your zeal, you "declare eternal hostility to weeds, and shall keep up the warfare until they are exterminated from our lands."

Is your life insured? Are you a young enthusiast just setting out with your lance couched? Why, bless me, my dear fellow, you will have all the Ornithologists and Entomologists upon you—what will become of the birds? You

must kill them all off, for they are the great seed sowers of the weed family. What will you do with the bugs, and worms, and the moles, and mice? Bless me, what a jar will take place when you take out these connecting links in the great chain of creation. But we are growing tiresome, and the mercury is 90°, for fear of running to seed, we close with the best wishes of the season.

BROOMSEDGE.

*Big Branch, August, 1857.*

For the Farmer and Planter.

Anti-Book-Farmers.

MR. EDITOR:—I am sorry to think that there are some planters who are disposed to run down or blame other planters for being what they term book-farmers, and at the same time they cannot give the first good reason for depreciating it. It is very true that there are a great many good planters among us who, I don't suppose, ever look into an agricultural work from one year's end to another; and at the same time they are very successful planters, and succeed every year in making fine crops when we have any sort of a favorable season, and they will tell you or me that they do not care about book knowledge to farm with. But there is no rule without an exception, and now and then one of those anti-book-men will venture to make an experiment in book farming, and if they happen not to succeed, they condemn it more than ever—and why is it that they do not succeed? It is because they do not understand how to make the experiment; or in other words, they do not understand the experiment, either in practice or theory, and that is the cause why they do not succeed in an experiment that they may have heard of being recommended in some agricultural work. Who is it that will not admit where experience and theory are combined, they will not succeed when applied by any person? Where is the planter that will stand up and say that if an agricultural work was placed in the hands of every farmer and planter in South Carolina, that can read, that we would not succeed much better than we do?

I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that it would afford me a great deal of pleasure if I could see the Farmer and Planter, or some other good agricultural work, in the hands of every farmer or planter in South Carolina, and I feel satisfied that if it was the case, you never would come up lacking for communications for the Farmer and Planter, and I am very sorry to

think that more of your subscribers do not write oftener than they do. I know a great many of your subscribers, and I know that they are men that are not only practical planters; but they are men that are capable of writing on any subject, and that their pieces, particularly on agriculture, would be read with a great deal of pleasure by your subscribers.

Mr. Editor, you can do as you please with this communication, and I am

Yours, respectfully, W. BA.  
August 20th, 1857.

For the Farmer and Planter.

The Price of Cotton.

MR. EDITOR:—The suggestion of a correspondent, published, I believe, in the last June No. of the Farmer and Planter, relative to the organization of an Agricultural Society, composed of the Southern members of Congress, whose duty shall be to report, on their arrival at the City of Washington, the prospects of the cotton crop, &c., &c.—together with the suggestions of your correspondent, Broomsedge, contained in the September No., relative to the planters reporting the area, condition, stands, &c., of the crop. Yet all this will avail us nothing, so long as we are dependent upon the banks, through our Commission Merchants, for money, the banks are really our worst enemies. When the planter goes into the market to purchase the articles necessary for his family, he finds them in the possession of the merchant, with a fixed price on each article; he carries with him a load of cotton, with the proceeds of which he expects to pay for his necessities; but has he a fixed price on his cotton, Oh! no, the merchant has to fix both prices, on the articles sold and on the cotton bought. Why is this so? because the planters have no concerted action, and because they are dependent on the merchants through the banks. Now we will venture to offer our advice to the cotton planters, and that in borrowed language, because it so well expresses our idea:

"Never draw a draft upon the cotton which you consign to your Commission Merchant! Fix a value upon it yourselves, and refuse to take less for it than you think it worth, unless you are necessitated to sell, and then sell before it be known that you are compelled to sell. The chief rule of the buyers of cotton is, I believe, in fixing the price, not founded upon the European demand, but upon the demand of the planters upon their merchants through the banks; and by that means the buyers are constantly

kept advised of the necessities of the planters as individual as well as a community, and they reduce the price of the article according to the urgency of the wants of the planters. I think it would be advisable, at least a safe experiment, for a sufficient number of the largest planters to establish an agency in some European market, and charter a vessel annually to take out their crops. The agent should be a practical planter, and also an American citizen. His agency should cease at the farthest, in five years, lest he become contaminated and commence speculation on his own hook, as is too often the case with our Commission Merchants, who both buy for the *consumer* and sell for the *producer*, yet maintain their integrity, although no doubt it is sometimes convenient to the *conscientious*, who, perhaps, find it a stumbling block in their religious pathway."

#### PLough STOCK.

**REMARKS ON THE ABOVE.**—Although Commission Merchants may, and doubtless sometimes do, take advantage of the necessities of the consigning planter in selling his cotton for less than the market price of the article, yet generally the European *price*—not the actual quantity made—must, in a great degree, regulate the price in our markets. And who, we would ask, is most instrumental in fixing the European price? Recollect the price will be regulated by the known or supposed (*hypothecated*) supply. Now who first reports the probable supply? Is it the hired agents of the European manufacturers, or is it a portion of the *conductors of our own press*? who are eventually crying out, "The first boll, the first bale, *large, overwhelming, unheard of* cotton crop," with no bad intention, we verily believe, but only to give their readers good news, and which, at the same time, is the *very worst news* for the planter that they could give; for they may be assured that all such reports are carefully picked up and treasured away for future use. And what are their effects when combined and published in a flaming circular from some celebrated house in Liverpool or New York? Have we not already seen such reports estimating, without any sort of doubt, the next crop at from three to four millions of bales? Whathonest, well-informed planter believesthem to be true? but true or not, *they*, based on just such reports of crops as we see but too frequently published in the papers of the South—will fix the opening price of our incoming crop far below what the next year's demand would entitle us to. And hence, thousands of our planters will be scared into an early sale of their crops at a price greatly below what they might obtain by exercising a little more firmness. We make but little cotton, but will here take occasion to say to our readers, our last year's crop—tho' small—is yet in store.—  
ED. F. & P.

Success is the child of courage and perseverance.

#### For the Farmer and Planter, Turnips.

**MR. EDITOR:**—Some time since we received some Patent Office seed, which, from their exotic names and transatlantic production, we considered worthy of a little more than usual care in planting. (You know everything foreign, and the farther away the better, is more valuable than the old-fashioned, familiar things of home (?)). Well, among our seeds were some turnip seed from England, Scotland, France, and everywhere else where fine turnips are grown. These we determined "to do up nice" in planting, anticipating, of course, in their maturity the turnip "trees" you read about in scripture—"the birds of the air lodged in the branches of it," &c. Our method and a little incident connected with the planting, we have thought would not be uninteresting to most of your readers.

On a patch fifty yards long, and seven yards wide, which we had broadcasted last year with good stable manure for some fancy rye we had, we determined to sow these seed. The land was first turned over with a twister, then sulsoiled by a scooter following a broad shovel, then laid off with the shovel in twelve drills twenty inches apart: into these drills two bushels of cotton seed, wet and rolled six hours previously in eighteen pounds of guano, were sprinkled: the scooter was then run in these drills amongst the manure, so as partially to cover the cotton seed: the ridges between the drills were next broken out by three shovel furrows, followed by a scooter on the ridges, then covering the manure; drills were again made by a scooter, in which the turnip seed were sown by the hand, and covered with a rake.

This was done in the morning of the 25th July. In the afternoon we had a fine rain, and in three days as pretty a stand of cotton as you ever saw. A hand was made to chop the cotton down, and two days more our turnips were up beautifully.

Now, the thought that suggested this article is, why did the guano not kill or prevent the germination of the cotton seed. Had the seed been treated the same way in March or April, every one of them would have died—why did they not die in July? Our solution is this: in the spring the land is cold and damp, and before heat enough is generated to cause the seed to sprout, they have absorbed a portion of the guano, which destroys their vitality. But in the last of summer germination takes place

before absorption, and the guano becoming saturated with moisture from the soil, is too much diluted to effect the seed. Is this not the reason, or have you ever tried a similar experiment?

We were glad to see Col. Dogan's proposition, but think his time too short. If he will admit the following suggestive amendment, you have our name for an X, and we will "pitch in" for the premium too. We would suggest that, the subscription money be made up, and from the receipt of the last ten dollars, the next twelve numbers of the *Farmer and Planter* be open to the premium essay, which must be an agricultural article not less than four, nor more than ten, pages long.

Yours, truly,  
PERKINS, JR.

*Poverty Place, Aug. 13, 1857.*

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Manure your Land.

MR. EDITOR:—It will be admitted by all up-country planters that all of our pine lands are very much worn, and that they all want to be improved, particularly our old lands, and we will have to begin to manure them to make them produce anything, and where is the planter that will not admit that one acre well manured, will produce twice as much as one without manure; and there are but a very few planters but what their property is increasing either in number or strength, and, therefore, they must have more land, or they must manure their old, wornout land, or they must move to the West. Well, a great many planters will say I make and apply all the manure I make from my stables and lots, and still I cannot make manure enough; but I can say to all planters, that we have other resources to resort to for manure, besides our stables and lots, and it is our branches and ponds, and I can say that a very fine manure can be got out of our branches and ponds. and a very fine compost manure can be made out of our ponds and branches, by making a pen and put a layer of trash and a layer of mud from the branches or ponds. I know that a compost made in that way, makes a very fine manure, for I made some in that way last fall, and I put it this year on some very poor land, and planted cotton where I put it, and it has made the cotton very fine—so much so that I am induced to make all I can of that kind of compost this fall to put on cotton. I made mine out of a pond. The compost made in this way I applied or put about 4 bushels to the task row. I think compost made in that way, would be improved

very much by dissolving salt and pouring it over the pen a short time before the manure was to be hauled out. I shall make the experiment with the salt next spring on my compost before I haul it out.

Mr. Editor, if you think this piece will benefit any one of your subscribers, it is at your service. Wishing you more subscribers, and all the success to your valuable journal,

I am yours, respectfully,  
W. BA.

P. S. I would be glad to hear, though the *Farmer and Planter*, a remedy for rot in grapes, as mine have rotted for the last 2 or 3 years.

W. BA.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Corn and Cob Mills.

MR. EDITOR:—We have noticed repeated inquiries in the agricultural papers for information concerning the astonishing family of "Little Giants," which, on being brought out before the public, under the various titles of Little Giant, Magic, Young America, Excelsior, &c.—Having had a little experience in that line, we feel it to be our duty to give the public the benefit of it:

1st. A machine which will grind up the corn and cob *well* together at not too great a sacrifice of time and labor, will pay well. We have tried it carefully, and are convinced.

2ndly. None of the above family will make good meal out of corn, that is all gammon, so don't believe a word of it.

3dly. They won't grind up corn and cob fine enough for food at the speed and with the power advertised by them. One mule cannot do the work—it is good work for two.

4thly. They are easily broken or put out of order, and many of them are badly cast, not being perfect circles, the grinding surfaces interfere.

5thly. They are worth about \$20 or \$25 as now made, and no more, and as long as they are put up in their present style, they will be found too frail for the use of a negro.

BROOMSEDGE.

A Nut for Brandy Drinkers.—The best No. 1 brandy is made of oil of brandy, a poisonous ether, oil of bitter almonds, (as poisonous as prussic acid,) etherial wine alcohol, sugar and Malaga Wine. No. 2—oil of brandy, acetic ether, tamarinds, cherry juice, sugar, all colored with burnt sugar. No. 3—oil of brandy, etherial oil, bitter almonds, elder flowers, and tamarinds. The lowest quality is composed of oil of brandy, acetic ether, oil of peach, and alcohol.—*Exchange.*

The following article, taken from an excellent exchange, the "Wisconsin Farmer," we commend to the attention of our readers, just in advance of our District and State Agricultural Society meetings:—Ed. F. & P.

#### County Fairs and the State Fair.

"This ought ye to have done, and not to have left the other undone."

Assuming that all the good farmers of Wisconsin will attend the State Fair, as a matter of course, inasmuch as it is proposed to make it an unusually interesting exhibition of all the best products of the soil and the best implements manufactured by our own ingenious artisans and those of other States,—since, moreover, there may be seen superior animals of the different breeds and species—both those reared at home by our scientific breeders and others imported from abroad,—and inasmuch as there, each district of the State may compare its own development and progress with those of other portions, therefrom learning how to improve where deficient, and how best to contribute to the more rapid progress of those whom they excel,—we say, assuming that the attendance upon such an exhibition will be a matter of course with all who deprecate stagnation, and ambitiously look to the promotion of their own interests and the vastly more important interests of the State, we propose to urge again upon the attention of our readers, the equal importance of earnest, enthusiastic effort on behalf of the State Fair. The other will increase in interest and value in proportion as this is fostered and developed. To those who improve them, County Fairs are the stepping stones to a higher success. Indeed, no individual can more materially advance his own private interests, than by liberally contributing to their support—no County more directly enhance its relative importance and best development, than by, once a year, throwing all its energies and influence on behalf of the Agricultural Exhibition. Farmers and Mechanics are not the only men benefitted by Fairs. The professional man, the merchant, the man of general business, all, whether consciously or unconsciously, reap immense benefit therefrom. We hardly deem it necessary to stop, just here, to prove the truth of this declaration, but commend a thorough canvass of the subject to every reflecting mind. Let the cardinal truth, that, *the healthy condition of Agricultural Societies lies at the foundation of all material prosperity*, be the starting point, and the conclusion cannot be far otherwise than as stated above.

Let the citizens generally of each county, plan not only to attend the Fair, but emulate each other, without respect to immediate benefit, in the good order of making it the pride of the County.

Again, the success of the County Fair will be further insured if a spirit of generous rivalry be awakened between Societies of like character. Let County vie with County for the palm, —the State Fair being the time and place for deciding the merits of each. If some system of general competition could be adopted, in ad-

dition to the lesser competition of individual with individual, we doubt not that more enthusiasm might be awakened than has yet been witnessed. For instance, let counties be represented at the State Fair by delegations consisting of as many people as can be induced to attend, each delegation being known in the Exhibition by the name of its county being attached to each article offered; let each delegation, moreover, have its general tent, or place of rendezvous, prepared at its own expense, and decorated according to its own taste, so that members may know where to find each other, as occasion may offer; and then, as a fitting finale to the whole Exhibition, let that County which, all things considered, has acquitted itself most worthily, receive in reward a good Agricultural Library for circulation among its people; let this be done, and a zeal could be awakened in our State which would do much in the great work of improvement, and, in turn, secure the palm at the National Fair.

Of course, it is now too late to perfect such a system for this season; but, whether the matter of a premium be deemed advisable or not, the suggestion relative to County delegations will commend itself to the consideration of those who are anxious to advance the interests of agriculture. The grounds at Janesville are being fitted up in fine style; and beautiful decorated tents, each bearing a flag, with the name of its county and the per centage of its population in attendance inscribed thereon, would certainly constitute a most imposing feature.

What County will lead off in this new movement? We shall see. H.

#### The Youth at Agricultural Fairs.

All the farmer's sons should attend the Agricultural Fairs, not as too many attend to "have a good time," but to see and learn. To see what fine stock and grain, and what beautiful fruit and flowers can be raised by skill and care; see what others have done, and resolve that you will, at least, equal the best, and if possible excel all, as soon as you commence farming on your own account. Officers of agricultural societies should offer premiums on fruit, vegetables root and other such crops raised by the boys. Every farmer would be willing to give his son an acre or two of ground, and on this he could raise carrots, beets, turnips, rutabagas and many other things, and, perhaps, beat the older farmers. It is too late to do much about this thing the present season; but let every boy that has grown any crops, make an exhibition, and when the next premium lists are made out, we hope a separate list of premiums will be offered to the boys.

[*Moor's Rural New Yorker.*

We say, aye, to the above suggestions, that all the farmer boys ought to attend the Fairs, and also as many of the girls as possible. If well conducted, they will be by far the best schools of the season, in which to learn lessons of practical usefulness.\*—Ed. F. W. FARMER.

\*So says the Ed. F. & P.

The Washington correspondent of the "Press," has been permitted, by the kindness of D. J. BROWNE, Esq., of the Patent Office, to make the following extracts from the prepared portions of the forthcoming agricultural reform:

#### Sugar and Molasses.

*Chemical Researches on the Sorgho Sucre, by Chas. T. Jackson, M. D., of Boston, Mass.*

On the 29th of October, 1856, I received from the Patent Office a bottle of expressed juice of the *Sorghum saccharatum*, procured from plants raised upon the Government grounds in Washington. This juice, after being strained through fine linnen, had a specific gravity of 1032; and after boiling, and the separation of an albuminous scum, 1055. Three and a half fluid ounces of the strained juice evaporated at 212 degrees F., until it became a dense straw-yellow syrup, too thick to run; when cold, gave 217 grains of saccharine matter. That portion of the juice which had been freed from albuminous matter, and filtered through paper, gave, on evaporation of a fluid ounce, 78 grains of thick yellow syrup; which, being dissolved in absolute alcohol, left nine per cent. of mucilaginous substances containing starch. The alcohol took up 69 grains of saccharine matter.—This is equal to 14.36 per cent. on the juice.

Other portions of the juice were operated upon by lime-water and bone-black, and filtered and evaporated to syrup. A small proportion of crystallized sugar was obtained from the bottom of the vessel, in which the syrup had stood for some days. A part of the juice, diluted with warm water, with the addition of a little yeast, fermented and produced spirit, which, on being separated by distillation, was found to be an agreeably-flavored alcohol, having, as M. Vilmorin has stated, a slight neyau taste. Good judges declared that it would make excellent brandy-spirit. According to the experiments of Vilmorin, the amount of absolute alcohol obtained from the juice is a fraction over 6 per cent.

On the 3d of November I also received from the Patent Office two parcels of the sorghum plant, in different stages of ripeness. That with quite ripe seeds was by far the sweetest, while the green one, which was just in flower, contained but very little saccharine matter.—One thousand grains, taken from the middle of the ripe stalk, when peeled, gave 670 grains of pith, from which the juice was separated.—The latter, on being evaporated to a thick syrup, gave 90 grains of saccharine matter, or 9 per cent. on the weight of the stalk. Another sample gave from 2½ ounces of the pith, 217 grains of thick syrup, or 12 per cent. Thus we have from 180 to 240 pounds of saccharine matter, in the form of a dense syrup, to a ton (2000 pounds) of the stalks. By means of a screw-press, I separated the juice from some of the cane, which had a specific gravity of 1,0987.

Being desirous of ascertaining the saccharine value of the sorghum raised in Massachusetts, I obtained from Capt. R. A. Wainwright, of the United States arsenal at Washington, in this State, five plants, which had been cultivated on the arsenal grounds. Sixteen ounces of

one of these plants, nearly ripe, gave 9½ ounces of clear pith, which I exhausted of its saccharine matter by means of boiling, distilled water and pressure. This liquid, on evaporation, gave 472 grains of thick syrup, too dense to pour from the vessel when cold. The yield of saccharine matter in this case was 10.6 per cent.

Another and riper sample, from the same parcel, yielded from 1000 grains of the stalk 640 grains of pith and 146 grains of thick syrup, or 14.6 per cent. of saccharine matter. On expression, the plant yielded a clear, sweet juice, having a specific gravity of 1.0975.

*Analysis of the Bagasse.*—One hundred grains, dried at 232 degrees Fahrenheit, and burned in a platinum vessel, left 1.6 per cent. of grey ashes. Having thus determined the proportion of inorganic matter in the bagasse, I burned a larger quantity for further experiment. It was found that the ash consisted of the following ingredients:

	PER CENT.
Silicic acid.....	14.40
Phosphoric acid.....	13.42
Sulphuric acid.....	28.70
Chlorine.....	3.70
Potash.....	8.10
Soda.....	9.60
Lime.....	11.80
Magnesia.....	6.60
Traces of oxyd of iron, a little carbonic acid and loss,.....	0.68
	100.00

This analysis shows that gypsum (sulphate of lime) will operate favorably as a fertilizer on this plant; and it is evident that the bagasse ash would serve as a good manure for the crop.

#### Philanthropy and Figures---Northern and Southern Agriculture.

The Anti-slavery journalists of the North are equally prone to misapply philanthropy and pervert figures, upon all questions concerning the South and her political and material interests. They are not satisfied with holding the slaveholder up to the abhorrence of Christendom as a fiend; they labor assiduously, also, to prove, upon economical principles and by statistical data, that he is a fool. They consign him to prospective damnation in the next world; and that, upon the Emersonian principle of compensation, ought to be sufficient, for the devil has generally granted a life of prosperous wickedness to those individuals who, like Dr. Faust, have sold him the reversion of their soul after death. But the journalists in question deny to the unfortunate slaveholder the benefit of such a compensation. His wickedness is pre-eminent, but it is not prosperous; he is not only foredoomed; and damned spiritually, but temporarily, also, he is nurturing the elements of decay, and plunging into irretrievable disaster.

It is a favorite proposition of these statistical philanthropists—one as destitute of solid basis as it is pertinaciously adhered to—that Southern capital is less productive than North-

ern, and that the general tendency of the industrial economy of the South is to waste and impoverish the country.

The following specimen of this sort of argumentation we find in a late number of the Boston Traveller, now the leading Black Republican journal of Massachusetts:

"The New Orleans Delta estimates the number of slaves at the South as over three and a half millions, and their aggregate value at present prices, at fully sixteen hundred millions of dollars. The cotton plantations in the South it estimates at about eighty thousand, and the aggregate value of their annual products, at the present prices of cotton, is fully one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars. There are over fifteen thousand tobacco plantations, and their annual products may be valued at about fourteen millions of dollars. There are two thousand six hundred sugar plantations, the products of which average annually more than twelve millions of dollars. There are five hundred and fifty-one rice plantations, which yield an annual revenue of four millions of dollars.

"Taking these statistics of one of the most intelligent Southern commercial journals at their full worth, in this year of unusually high prices, it makes but a meagre show of profits for slave labor. Counting the land is nothing, all the products of slave labor, over their own food, only amount to about nine per cent. of the capital invested in slaves alone, leaving entirely out of the question the value of the land.

"Now if we take the interest on the value of land out of this nine per cent. and then deduct one per cent. (about \$4 or \$5 a head only) for clothing the slaves, and also a proper amount for insurance of this live capital against death by cholera or other diseases, accidents, escapes and other contingencies, we shall find the profit on slave labor, even in these times of high prices, reduced to a very low figure, not more, certainly, than three or four per cent.—and if this is so now, what will it be when cotton, tobacco and sugar reduced to half their present value, while the cost and risk of keeping slaves continues quite as great as at present?"

In the above calculation the Traveller assumes that *all* the slaves in the South are employed in producing the staples enumerated, and takes no account whatever of the non-exportable products of slave labor; whereas the slaves in the South are not exclusively so employed, and in those Southern States where the production of these staples is the largest, the value of Indian corn alone produced is generally found equal to that of any one of the products raised for export.

Taking the census of 1850 as good proximate authority, we found that in the South 5,000,000 acres of land are cultivated in cotton. The number of slaves actually employed in cultivating this number of acres cannot exceed 500,000. Estimating their average price each at \$800, the aggregate value of these slaves would be \$400,000,000; to which add \$60 each for maintenance, or \$30,000,000 as the total expense incident to the employment of that kind of labor. This, then, would give a slave capi-

tal of \$430,000,000 employed in growing cotton, the value of which, at present prices, would not fall short of \$150,000,000—though in our estimate, cited by the Traveller, we set down the average value for several years at \$125,000,000.

But it is contended that the value of the land should be taken into account, let the 5,000,000 acres, with appurtenances, machinery, &c., be estimated at \$50 per acre—a very high average. Added to the \$430,000,000, the value of the slave labor employed, it would make an aggregate capital invested in the slave production of cotton of \$780,000,000, yielding a profit of more than 16 per cent.

But, aside from any speciality of Southern agriculture, they are telling, and irresistible facts revealed by the statistical tables, which effectually dissipate the sophistry of those who would institute an odious comparison between the slave system of the South and the hireling labor system of the North. Let us look at some of the most salient. In 1850, the North, with a population of 13,000,000, produced \$469,000,000 worth of agricultural products on 57,000,000 acres; while the South, with a population of less than 10,000,000, produced \$479,000,000 on 55,000,000 acres. Does that show the impoverishing tendency of slavery, or a rule and defective agriculture in the South? Or suppose we take Massachusetts as a representative Northern State in respect of agriculture, and Tennessee as a State producing the principal products of the South, and compare the results in each with the capital invested in agriculture. The value of farms, agricultural machinery and implements in Massachusetts in 1850, was \$112,000,000, and the agricultural products amounted to \$15,000,000. The value of farms, agricultural Machinery and implements in Tennessee, the same year, was only \$104,000,000, but the products amounted to no less than 50,000,000.

Facts are stubborn things; and such as we have cited scarcely justify the anti-slavery philanthropists and advocates of the hireling labor system in contemplating us of the South as doomed, both here and hereafter, by the fatal sin and folly of our industrial economy.

They may, if they are so sentimentally inclined, explore to an unlimited extent the loss of our souls incurred by our infatuation for that peculiar and wicked institution. They may, also, after the manner of certain Jews of old who prayed at the street corners, felicitate themselves on their own eminent virtue. But they cannot, unless they are willing to relinquish their reputation for sanity, aver that the abominable institution in question is dragging us to material as well as spiritual perdition.

All we ask of you, Messrs. Philanthropists, is to keep your hands out of our pockets. If you will only not interfere with our material interests, we are quite willing to take all the hazard of material evil which slavery may work us. We claim *laessez faire* for both our spiritual and temporal concerns, though we have no objection to any charitable solicitude you may please to indulge in respect to our immor-

tal natures. But our earnest and unceasing request is—keep your hands out of our pockets

[*New Orleans Delta*]

From the Northwestern Farmer.

**The North Carolina Evergreen, Thornless Blackberry.\***

**EDS. NORTHWESTERN FARMER:**—Perhaps it may not be generally known that in the mountainous parts of North Carolina, many fruits are found growing in a state of nature, that will be great acquisitions to our gardens when once they are introduced and properly cultivated. Among this class, you may rank the North Carolina or Cherokee Thornless Blackberry, which, from the height at which it is found growing, (5,000 feet above the sea, and lower), would justify the opinion that it would prove hardy as far North as the northern boundary of Iowa. It is found growing in patches on the mountains, varying in quantity from a single cane to several acres in body, and some of the canes that I have seen, have measured from 12 to 19 feet in length, and in sheltered situations they retain some of their leaves green during the entire winter. The canes are as entirely destitute of thorns as a thrifty corn stalk, and as smooth, so that cattle feed on them during the entire winter, and sometimes do very well without any other food. They are later than our common blackberry from three to four weeks, so that when one is gone the other is just beginning to come into perfection, and then the fruit is twice the size of the common, and the very sweetest of the blackberry kind.—Seeds are small and set in a large quantity of the pulp, thus making this berry a much more desirable article than anything else of the kind that I have ever seen described, as the ladie's greatest objection to blackberry sweetmeats is the great amount of seeds there is in proportion to the pulp.

A NEW CONTRIBUTOR.  
*Murphy, N. C., March, 1857.*

\*Is there any such a blackberry in North Carolina? whether so or not, we have never before heard of it.—  
**ED. F. & P.**

From the Genesee Farmer.

**The Benefits of Agricultural Fairs.**

**MESSRS. EDITORS:**—Many farmers appear to be of the opinion that, except they have large farms and large purses, it is of no use being a member of, or in any way encouraging or supporting an Agricultural Society, because they think that it is only those who obtain several premiums, that gain any thing by it. Now, this is a false conclusion, and I fear that few of such men will read the *Genesee Farmer* where they may learn better. Agricultural Societies are (I am bold to assert) a public good, and their public exhibitions are their beauty, their pride, yes, and the key, as it were, which holds them together—their very life and soul.

Now the benefit of Agricultural Societies are these: (1) They induce better cultivation of the soil, by which better crops are grown, and better stock raised, for which better prices

are obtained and more profit is realized. The farmer is thus enabled to carry on still farther his improvements by purchasing better implements and hiring more labor. Thus (2) while the mechanic is enjoying the best articles the farm can produce, the farmer has the pleasure of working with, and enabled to pay a good price for, the mechanics' best wares. The farmer and the mechanic are mutually benefitted, and (3) through these Annual Exhibitions there is a friendly strife created, the mind becomes aroused into a state of activity, and thus improvements are accomplished which astonishes even those engaged in the work themselves.

(4) At these fairs the best stock of a neighborhood or country are brought together—yes, and the best men too in point of utility to the place in which they reside. You may see them engaged in friendly intercourse with each other, making enquiries, drawing comparisons and so gather up a stock of knowledge to be spent in improvements during the succeeding year.

J. N.

*Nassagioyea, U. W.*

**A Surge Pump.**

A surge pump is nothing but a *squirt* applied to a new purpose. It is made of tin. It is a cylinder about two and a half feet long, one and three-quarter inches bore, with a piston rod of wood wrapped around with tow at the bottom. The cylinder is provided with an enlargement at bottom, like the base of a china or plated candlestick, pierced with holes to admit the water, and having a spout, like the spout of a coffee-pot, starting just above the perforated base, and running up as high as the cylinder itself.—This spout is provided at its mouth with a triangular piece of tin, so curved as to flare the water as it is forced out by the piston, and make it fall in a smart shower. It will work in two inches depth of water, and will force it forty or fifty feet. We have worked one this afternoon—the 15th of May—and watered a large strawberry bed with it, making the ground quite muddy in about a half hour. For such purposes, and especially for watering plant beds, it is a very valuable implement, and so cheap—\$1.50—that it will not break any man to buy it, and not ruin him if he breaks it. In ordinary situations, it is as effective as a garden engine that costs from \$25 to \$60. A friend to whom we showed it a few evenings since, said he considered it good to him for 150,000 hills of tobacco. At \$1.50 insurance, or the one-thousandth part of a cent to each hill, he gets them low enough. If not to be had in the country—any tinner can make them.

[*Southern Planter.*

From the Genesee Farmer.  
**Cultivation of Millet**

**MESSRS. EDITORS:**—Millet is cultivated for several purposes, and has obtained many flattering commendations from persons who have grown it extensively. In Italy, and some parts of Germany, it is made into bread, which is very nutcriptive, and extensively eaten by the

poorer classes. Generally, the seed is grown as food for animals, and more especially for poultry. It is estimated (by those who understand how to use it) to possess about the same value as corn.

There are three varieties of *Panicum*, cultivated as millet, besides two species of the *Sorghum*, all under the common name of millet.—Two of these species, *Panicum Germanicum* and *Panicum Italicum*, have round heads, much resembling what is known by the name of pigeon grass. These varieties have not succeeded well as yet in Ohio. The common German millet, grows four or five feet high, with stalks as large as coarse wheat straw. The *Panicum milliarium* grows about three feet high, with a broad leaf at each joint, terminating in a panicle, somewhat resembling Poland oats. There are two varieties of this species, one having brown, and the other yellow buds. This species is found to be more profitable for cultivation than the two first named. From the small size of the stalk, and great quantity of leaves, cattle and horses prefer it to the best timothy hay.

One of the favorite methods of growing this crop, is upon green sward, deeply fall-plowed, and well harrowed or worked with a cultivator or gang plow in the spring. Then apply a coating of fine, well rotted manure, and if the season is favorable you may expect a good crop.—Sow from three pecks to a bushel per acre.—If sown about the middle of May, it will be ready to harvest about the middle of July, and yields from three to four tons of excellent hay.

JOHN G. SAMSON,

Laceyville, Harrison Co., Ohio.

#### A Curious Question.

It is a singular illustration of the inexactness of agricultural knowledge, that the question how many seeds there are in the pound of our commonly cultivated field plants, should still remain to be answered. It is plain that the answer will not necessarily effect farm practice—for the quantity of seed which it is proper to sow per acre, is a matter to be determined by experience, not by argument apart from trial; and yet surely it is most desirable to compare the number of the seeds we ordinarily sow with that of the plants we raise. If in ordinary practice, 1,200,000 seeds of wheat are sown on every 40,000 superficial feet, or what is more extraordinary, fifteen to eighteen million seeds of flax are scattered on the same extent, about three to every inch of land, it is surely well to let the farmer know it. He knows very well he does not raise so many plants as this—and struck, as he must be, by the enormous disproportion between the means he uses and the result he gets, he will inquire into its causes.

The turnip seed employed per acre, numbers from 600,000 to 1,000,000, according to the kind and quantity adopted; this, if the rows are two feet apart, is two or three dozen seeds per foot of row, where a single plant alone is to be grown. No doubt nothing like so many generally come up, but then there is a great de-

struction by the hoe, which will explain much of the discrepancy in this case. What, however, becomes of the 18,000,000 seeds of flax which are commonly—of the 6,000,000 seeds of oats which are sometimes sown per acre? There is no destruction by the hoe in either instance here. A single ear of oats may contain 100 grains—a single plant will generally include half a dozen ears, but if 6,000,000 plants should yield as much as this implies, they would produce 100 loads of grain. Instead of 600 seeds a piece, they yield but half a dozen each to produce an ordinary crop of oats. It is plain that five-sixths of the seed, or of the plants that they produce, are killed in the cultivation of the crop; and the proportion is vastly greater than this in the case of other plants. What is the ordinary seeding of the clover crop? Eight pounds of red clover, four of white clover, and four of trefoil may be sown—that is at least 6,000,000 seeds per acre—a seed on every inch of land—but instead of 144 are there generally half a dozen plants on every square foot of the clover field?

There are about 25,000 seeds of sainfoin in a pound of 'rough' seed, as it is called, and it weighs some 20 lbs. per bushel; four bushels is an ordinary seeding, and they contain 2,000,000 seeds, or 50 per square foot of land. This is the number, too, of seeds in an ordinary seeding of vetches. It is manifest that in both these cases there is an enormous destruction either of young plants or seed; and these are the two great divisions under which the causes of this anomaly must be classed: faults of seed and sowing, and faults of cultivation. We are enabled, by the assistance of Messrs. Rendle, of Plymouth, to lay before them the following answers to the question—how many seeds to the pound?

Name	No. of seeds per lb.	No. of lbs. per bush.
Wheat,	10,500	58 to 64
Barley,	15,400	48 to 56
Oats,	20,000	38 to 42
Rye,	23,000	56 to 60
Canary Grass,	54,000	
Buckwheat,	25,000	48 to 50
Turnip (Rendle's Swede),	155,000	50 to 56
" (Cornish Holdfast),	239,000	"
" (Orange Jelly),	233,000	"
Cabbage (Scotch Drum-head),	128,000	56
" (Drumhead Savoy),	117,000	50 to 56
Clover (Red),	249,000	60
" (White),	686,400	59 to 62
Rye Grass (Perennial),	314,000	20 to 28
" (Italian),	272,000	13 to 18
Sweet Vernal Grass,	923,200	8

[Scotch Paper.]

#### Guano.

In answer to sundry enquiries as to the price of Guano, how to know that it is genuine, what kinds are best, how to use it, and whether it is profitable for a farmer, we offer the following remarks:—*Southern Cultivator.*

Guano is sold by the agent of the Peruvian

Government in New York, at \$60 per ton for No. 1, in bags of about 160 or 170 lbs., and 500 tons or upward at once, on 60 days' credit. In smaller lots, it is \$65 each. We believe that it is not sold in less parcels than 25 tons by the agent. It is a mystery to many persons how retailers sell guano at less than these prices. They may do so and be honest; because they buy long tons and sell short ones; and, as it costs about 2½ cents a pound, if sold at 3 cents, which is the usual price, it affords a fair profit—say \$7 a ton. But guano, said to be genuine No. 1 Peruvian is sometimes sold by the single ton in this city, at \$55 a ton. It may be so, but we don't believe it. We don't believe it, because men are not apt to do business without profit; much more, at a positive loss. At \$60 a ton, we should like to know our man, and have more confidence than we now have in any one in that trade in this city. It is altogether better for farmers to club together and buy their guano direct from the agent, at his price, and be sure to get honest weight and quality. In every cargo of guano there is 50 to 100 tons in the bottom that is damp, and this is sold as No. 2, at about \$15 per ton less than No. 1, and the bags weigh 15 or 20 lbs. more, on account of the water, and besides it is not so good. Then we have "Mexican Guano," which is sold at any price from \$10 to \$25 a ton. "Ichabo Guano" is worth about \$10. There are some other kinds, both genuine and manufactured, but none but Peruvian can often be found at retail. What becomes of all the others, is a mystery to those who know that some of the largest retail dealers in the city buy large quantities of the cheap kinds, and cart them to their storehouse, where, for aught we can say to the contrary, they are still in store, waiting for a rise in the market. It is barely possible, however, that when No. 1 and No. 2, Peruvian and Mexican, Chilian and Ichabo, are emptied upon the floor together, the moisture of No. 2 is absorbed, and the Mexican loses its color, and the whole pile turns, of its own accord, into "genuine No. 1 Peruvian Guano—warranted."

We should a little rather buy of the agent at \$65 than of any retailer at \$55, notwithstanding the warranty; and that is the only way to know that it is genuine; for we defy the best judges to tell by looks, taste or smell.

In England, adulteration of guano has been carried to an extent hardly to be credited by such honest traders as the universal Yankee nation. As it is generally supposed that some of that nation have learned to adulterate liquors, it is barely possible that they have learned to adulterate guano.

As to best kind, we cannot recommend a farmer ever to buy any but genuine No. 1 Peruvian guano. Other kinds may be worth their cost, but then again they may not be better than so much yellow dust.

#### HOW TO USE GUANO.

The best way is to sow it broadcast, without any mixture or preparation, except to break the lumps and thoroughly incorporate it with the soil by a light plowing or heavy harrowing,

and sow the land with wheat or other grain and clover or grass, in all cases. If it is used with corn, potatoes, or other crops, mix it well in the soil, and follow that crop with another the same season, to get the after effect of the guano.

If applied as a top-dressing to grass, it should be sown immediately before or during a rain, or else mixed with charcoal dust, or plaster of Paris. It may be thus used upon wheat or other small grain.

#### QUANTITY TO THE ACRE.

From 200 to 300 pounds we consider the most profitable application, though it has often been used to advantage in larger and smaller proportions.

#### IS IT PROFITABLE?

For the purpose of renovating the poorest, worn out sandy-plain in the country, or soil-denuded gravel knoll, it is the most profitable application ever made by a farmer. Upon all lands which need manure to make them produce a fair crop, it is profitable even at the present extravagantly high price. In whatever situation it can be used, where other manure cannot, it is profitable; and it is certainly so, in very many cases, to use it instead of other manure, where that has to be hauled any considerable distance. If it would be profitable to restore such a tract of barren sand as that, for instance, between New Haven and Meriden, Connecticut, to a condition which would produce crops of grain capable of paying all expenses, followed by a heavy crop of clover, then it would be profitable to apply guano to that land, for that is what it would do. If a farmer can make the poorest old field as productive as his richest one, for an expense of \$9 an acre, then it is profitable to use guano. The same may be said of Superphosphate of Lime. If it is genuine it is valuable, and its use profitable. But how some people have been cheated with this stuff!—*New York Tribune.*

From the Southern Planter.

#### More about Osage Orange Hedges.

CAKE MINE, HENRICO. {  
April 23, 1857. }

To the Editor So. Planter.—As there seems to be some difference of opinion as regards the fitness of the Osage Orange, as a hedge plant, I beg sufficient space in the columns of your valuable magazine to give my experience on the subject.

In April, 1854, I purchased of Gen. Richard son and planted out one thousand one year old plants, opening a trench with a two horse plow in the centre of a five foot bed, previously plowed. In this trench I set the plants, pressing the soil very firmly to the roots, spread stable manure liberally in the half filled furrow, threw sufficient earth to the plants with the plow, on each side, to give a slight bed to the row, and left them. By careful examination to-day, I find that only four plants in the thousand failed to grow off vigorously. During the summer I gave the hedge one thorough weeding with the hoe. In the spring following, and each spring

since, I have trimmed them severely and given them one hoeing. Next fall I shall remove the plank enclosure that preceded the planting of the hedge, and all trespassers, biped and quadruped, that can pass my hedge, shall be welcome to all its enclosures.

In the spring of 1855, in a very hot and dry spell in May, I planted a second hedge of one thousand plants, taking the simple precaution of dipping the roots in a puddle of clay and horse dung intimately mixed before setting them; and even at this late period I lost very few plants, not 20 in all, and their progress thus far has equalled my first experiment. A third experiment of a few hundred last spring has furnished another evidence of the remarkable vitality of the plant, its almost infallible certainty to stand, its great thriftiness, and its defiance of intense cold.

I am inclined to think that those who have failed to secure a regular stand of Osage Orange when using one year old plants, or who have failed to raise a vigorous hedge in four years, at furthest, must have sadly neglected that moderate but indispensable attention which is required.

Our people are unfortunately too much given to conclude that where they have planted a perennial, they have fulfilled their part, and the plant must accomplish all else. This is emphatically true with the whole class of fruit trees and vines in nine cases out of ten, and I suppose it is so with the Osage Orange. I will here remark in passing, that a very common error in transplanting trees, shrubs and vines is, to plant manure in actual contact with the roots. This is always detrimental, and in a very dry season is often fatal. Well pulverized earth, unmixed with anything calculated to make it very porous or spongy, should be brought into close and firm contact with the roots, and the manure, if any is required, should then be applied.

As to the tendency of the hedge to draw severely upon the adjacent strip of land, I can only say that I have observed no difference between the growth of vegetables in parallel rows five feet from the line of my hedge, and the growth of others more remote. I should think that deep coultering with a cutting edge within four feet of the line of the hedge every spring, would prevent the lateral roots from poaching too much on the field, and at the same time arrest the growth of the Orange when its tendency is towards too robust stature.

The increasing scarcity and enhancing value of timber for dead wood fences, and the inaccessibility of stone for that purpose, gives an increasing interest to the subject of live hedges, especially in Eastern Virginia; and it is to be hoped that the partial experiments now being made with the Osage Orange, will receive the little patience and attendance which my experience assures me is alone necessary to secure its general adoption for that purpose. As I deem it a good rule for writers on practical subjects to give the sanction of their names to what they offer to the public,

I subscribe myself,

Very respectfully, your obd't s'vt,  
JOHN J. WERTH.

#### Treatment for Dogs, Horses, and Sheep.

SIR—Allow me to offer to your correspondent "Widgeon," the following simple cures:

##### DISTEMPER IN DOGS.

I have found from experience that a large tablespoonful of common salt effects a cure, if given at the commencement of the disease. If the first dose be not sufficient, it may be repeated after the lapse of one day.

##### JAUNDICE IN DOGS.

Some time since a large thorough-bred retriever, belonging to a friend, had the misfortune to be poisoned, but fatal effects were prevented by nature compelling him to vomit very freely. Three full days afterwards, being informed that the dog had not purged since vomiting, I was induced to apply a rather severe remedy, in the shape of two drops of croton oil on the tongue, at the same time giving directions for his diet to be plain, and of a liquid nature. On the second day after administering the croton oil, the animal had perfectly recovered his usual healthy state.

As raw eggs are said to be an alleviation, if not a cure for this disease in the human subject, I have no doubt they would be equally effectual with dogs.

##### WORMS IN HORSES.

One pint of cold drawn linseed oil will be found an effectual cure; but remember that perfect rest must be given while it remains in the stomach. The worms will surfeit themselves with the oil, and so die, when they will be discharged in the course of nature.

##### DIARRHEA IN SHEEP.

I have found rock salt to be an effectual corrective. For field stock, lumps of it must be put into "box troughs," with only one side open, which must always be turned away from the wind, on account of the rain.

##### SUBSTITUTE FOR GLASS IN CUCUMBER FRAMES, &c.

The following is in answer to one of your correspondents:—Procure some strong canvas, and brush it over with boiled linseed oil while in a hot state, allowing it to dry thoroughly previous to the next application. Three coats will be sufficient. It being presumed that the wooden frame is already made, stretch the canvass, and nail it on carefully. D. C.,

[in Morton's *Practical Agriculture*.]

#### Green Crop for Manure.

I am much gratified to notice the increased attention which is being accorded by farmers generally to this subject. Every one, in fact, who examines this subject attentively, must be speedily convinced of its utility, especially when turned in as an enrichment of exhausted soils. There is obviously no method of which the agriculturist can economise more, or more rapidly increase the fertility of the soil, than by turning in, as a dressing, such crops as derive a portion of their aliment from the air.—No matter how impoverished or sterile the soil, he may, by a judicious and persistent pursuit of this means of amelioration, easily make

it rich. There are many plants well adapted to this purpose, among which are millet, buckwheat, peas and clover, all of which are highly valuable, operating both mechanically and chemically, by their decomposition upon the soil, especially when containing much acid.

But it may not be improper here to remark that in making choice of crops to be turned in, we should invariably give preference to such as derive at least a portion of their pabulum from the air. The vegetables enumerated above, are all of this class, and consequently take much less from the staple of the soil, than those which are of course less adapted to this use. Of these, buckwheat and clover are perhaps the most valuable\*—the haulm being more vigorous, and at the same time much more succulent, and yielding much more readily to the laws of chemical affinity when buried beneath the soil. There is also another cause of preference, particularly in the case of buckwheat, the crisp nature of its stalk contributing greatly to the facility of turning it down, especially where the roller is used to precede the plow. On every poor land, buckwheat may be grown with better success, perhaps, than any other grain crop, and will produce a more abundant yield, both of haulm and grain. When sowed to be turned in—unless the soil is calcareous to a degree rendering it unnecessary, the application of quicklime before turning in the wheat, will be of great benefit. From two or three casks will ordinarily suffice for an acre; but if the ameliorating process is designed to prepare the land for the production of crops belonging to the order of lime plants, and which require a large amount of this mineral for their successful development, treble and even quadruple the above quantity may be economically applied. It is not of essential consequence whether the application precedes the turning down of the crop, as is accorded subsequently, the principal object being to supply an important constitutional deficiency to the interests of the operator by limiting the acreable product of the crop.

Clover is preferred by many to all other crops for this purpose, and, taking all things in consideration, it is, perhaps, not easy to say where preference should rest. The quantity of soluble matter contained in the clover plant, when arrived at the period of inflorescence, unquestionably large,—larger, probably than in most other plants. Its roots, also, when mature, are large and succulent, and contribute very materially to the fertilizing effects of the crop when turned down at maturity; but it will be seen that where a speedy amelioration is required, the plants do not commonly have time to attain their maximum development, and every one is aware that in its youthful state, the clover plant contains a far larger quantity of fluid than of solid matter. Millet, if sowed broadcast, will probably produce a greater quantity of readily soluble matters, than either clover or buckwheat. But whether its fertilizing action upon the soil is so great, is a question that remains to be decided. One thing, however,

may be relied on as certain. Any plant produced by the soil will, if turned in by the plow, contribute more or less to its enrichment. The families of the puccus, and even the comparatively worthless cryptogamous vegetation, which is produced parasitically on rocks and in boggy swamps, have been ascertained to possess principles favorable to vegetable development, and when reduced by putrefaction, of aiding, very essentially, the phenomena of vegetable life. Nothing, in short, is worthless in the great laboratory of nature, and it is their over the crucible and the alembic, that we receive those important lessons which so materially assist us in the numerous and multiform duties of practical life. Here we discover the adaptation of means to ends, and become familiarised to the operative principles and laws with which we were before perfectly unacquainted, and scarcely deemed to exist.

[*Germantown Telegraph.*

From the Charleston Courier.

#### Chinese Sugar Cane.

SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE,

Charleston, August 21, 1857. }

Messrs. Editors:—A Committee of the Institute having been invited to inspect an experimental planting of the "Sorghum," by Thos. H. Deas, Esq., visited his farm, on King-street road on the 12th inst., for the purpose. Believing that any and every information relating to the introduction and success of new agricultural products, as well as of mechanical invention, is of importance, the Committee would lay before the public the result of their inspection. Mr. Deas planted one pint of seed on about half an acre of ground prepared in the usual manner for corn, placing a single grain in each spot. The cane is now about ripe. On a careful count of stalks from each *single* seed, in a number of cases, it was determined that there were at least five stalks to each on the average through the field. The number of the single hills being 7,260, would give the enormous yield of 30,300 stalks, of about 8 feet in height, for less than half an acre of land. The heads of each were well filled with seed, which of itself is a valuable crop, being useful for feed to stock and poultry. Some four weeks ago Dr. Deas cut down to the ground a row of this cane, and from the roots the ratoons have grown again to about seven feet in height, and are well headed the second time. Dr. Deas has no facilities for expressing the juice or preparing the sugar, though we learn that our enterprising fellow-citizens, Messrs. W. S. Henry & Co., are preparing a sugar mill suitable for the Chinese cane, and it is expected and believed that there will be several samples of the sugar exhibited at the Fair of the Institute, to compete for the prize offered by that association.

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*Economy in Cattle Feeding.*—The time will come when the feeding of cattle with a pitchfork will be considered slovenly farming, when no one but a slovenly farmer will think of feeding hay or straw until it has past through a cutting machine.

\* Neither equal to the pea in the South.—Ed. F. & P

*Hints on Paper Hanging.*—Many a fever has been caused by the horrible nuisance of corrupt size used in paper-hanging in bed rooms.\* The nausea which the sleeper is aware of on waking in the morning, in such a case, should be a warning needing no repetition. Down should come the whole paper, at any cost or inconvenience, for it is an evil which allows of no tampering. The careless decorator will say that time will set all right—that the smell will go off—that airing the room well in the day, and burning some pungent thing or other, at night, in the meantime, will do very well. It will not do very well; for health, and even life, may be lost in the interval. It is not worth while to have one's stomach impaired for life, or one's nerves shattered, for the sake of the cost and trouble of papering a room, or a whole house if necessary. The smell is not the grievance, but the token of the grievance. The grievance is animal putridity, with which we are shut up when this smell is perceptible in our chambers. Down should come the paper; and the wall behind should be scraped clear of every particle of its last covering.—*Ex.*

\*Not a doubt of it in our mind. We have long since believed it—had rather sleep in the open air than in a papered room, unless well ventilated.—ED. F. & P.

*Memorial of Cotton Dealers.*—We saw yesterday a memorial of the Cotton factors, buyers, brokers, shippers, merchants and dealers generally of the cities of New Orleans and Mobile. The memorial is signed by a large number of the most prominent dealers in cotton in this city. It reads as follows:

The undersigned deeming that the gross misrepresentations that have emanated from N. York this season in relation to the cotton interest should be rebuked in a formal manner, and considering that unscrupulous parties have exerted every endeavor to depress this most important branch of the trade, by fabulous and mischievous reports of the crop, have thought the present occasion a proper one to adopt a change in the annual making up the crop, by transferring the locality to New Orleans where it legitimately belongs, as the largest cotton market of this continent, as it is destined shortly to be that of the world—and the signers of this paper representing a majority of the cotton trade of New Orleans and Mobile, bind themselves to consider the crop to be made up hereafter in New Orleans, as constituting the only true exponent of the growth of the country, under which all matters affecting the yield are to be arbitrated and settled.

They therefore respectfully ask the conductors of the Prices Current of this city to make up annually in future the crop up to the first of September on the plan which they may deem most advisable.—*Mobile Tribune.*

*Sorgho Brandy—Agricultural Tour.*—Mr. H. S. OLcott, of New York, who visits our city on a tour of agricultural observation and correspondence, exhibited to us a sample of Brandy, as distilled by J. W. REID 11 Old Slip, New

York, from Chinese Sugar Cane, furnished from the crop of Col. R. PETERS, of Atlanta, Ga. The Alcoholometer marks this sample 58, and we are informed that the success of the experimental distillations is considered complete and decisive in favor of another use and property of the Chinese Cane.

Mr. OLcott proceeded yesterday afternoon to Augusta, Ga., whence he will visit the plantation of Ex-Governor HAMMOND, in this State, and learn the latest results of the interesting experiments there in progress, with the Sorghum and Imphee, or Chinese and African Sugar Canes. He will then visit Col. PETERS' plantation near Atlanta, Ga., and proceed to Louisville, Ky., to attend the Fair of the U. S. Agricultural Society, opening on the 1st prox. Mr. OLcott visits this fair officially, and as a correspondent for several of the New York Journals, including *Frank Leslie's Illustrated*, and *Daily Times*, and the *Evening Post*.

We shall be pleased to learn that our enterprising farmers, are awake to the interest evinced in the experiments in progress, for an enlargement and improvement of our staple culture.—*Charleston Courier.*

From the Charleston Courier.  
The Chinese Sugar Cane.

An experiment on a small scale with this new plant has completely satisfied the writer of its value. In answer to your request to hear from any who have tested its character, I send this brief communication. Somewhere about April last, I planted about one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of an acre with the seed of the "Sorgho." The cold retarded for a long time its appearance, and then the drought delayed its growth. The situation of the land being rather low, also had a share in throwing it back. In July it began to thrive sufficiently to encourage our making arrangements to try its worth, as soon as it should mature. For this end, and not in view of quantity from the little patch that was ripening, I had a small oak mill of two upright rollers made on the place, which of course, cost but the time used for its manufacture—and yesterday, August 18th, the cane being nearly ripe, we ground twenty-five sticks, (25,) some long and others short. The juice ran freely, and there were obtained some three quarts of the saccharine matter. This was put in a common iron pot, and boiled for a couple of hours. The residuum was a sweet and agreeable syrup, which quite astonished, as its taste delighted, those who looked very unbelievingly for a good result. "Why, Mosser," says one of these colored sceptics, "dis good as molasses;" while the eyes of others of the tribe rolled rapturously, in thought of the sweet time coming. This syrup is, in color, similar to treacle, and in taste a little like the preserved tomato. The three quarts of saccharine gave less than a quart of the syrup; but the small measure is referred to the very inferior growth of the cane, as before stated, and not to its probable product, on good soil, adapted to its nature, and with season more favorable than our last spring. With the experiment I am completely satisfied; and of

its worth, in adding to the comfort of our negroes, there can be no question. Another year will see on the place of every considerate planter some acres sown with this novel seed, as it will also find the apparatus necessary to the sure and desirable issue.

A second trial, the day after, was attended with equally good results. A small quantity of lime was this time added, and the boiling continued longer. This last, of course, increased the thickness, as the first improved the flavor. I can say, now, with all confidence, that with very little trouble, at almost no expense, and in a short space of time—say four months—we can, independently of others, conveniently to ourselves, and most agreeably to our servants—who ought especially to be considered as our hard-working-poor, secure a most desirable product from the Chinese cane.

SPES.

**New Metals.**—It is stated definitely that improvements have been made in the manufacture of aluminum, by which it is hereafter to be produced at much less cost than hitherto.—Sodini, also, so necessary in the manufacture of aluminum, can now be produced by means of improved processes at a greatly diminished price. Lithium has been produced, by M. Froost, from lepidolite, a mineral which occurs in the granite near Roxana, in Moravia.—Whether this remarkable metal is destined to find a place in the arts or manufactures remains a problem which time alone can solve.—Its striking characteristic is its extreme levity, lithium being a solid metal which floats upon rectified naptha. Calcium, the metallic base of lime, has been obtained as a beautiful gold-colored metal, by Prof. Benson, of Marburg, but as yet not in any quantity. Since it is now known that the clays and earths are all of them reducible to the metallic state, what may not be expected in a few years in art-manufacture? Solids as durable as silver and less liable to tarnish may be placed in the hands of artizans from which to produce articles of use or ornament lighter than cork.—Ex.

**Blacking Poisonous.**—Mr. S. P. DUPON, in a letter to the Savannah Republican says:

"I have just lost two prime little negroes from the effects of eating a small quantity of blacking that is used to clean shoes. One died in six, and the other in twenty-four hours, in convulsions. I give you the information for public good. I do not think more than a spoonful was eaten."

#### Simple Butter Cooler.

Melted butter is all very well in its right place, but when butter is put upon the tea or breakfast-table, having the appearance of being just out of the oven, it is anything but creditable to the housekeeper, and far from satisfactory to those who eat it. Dry toast is positively spoilt if spread with soft butter; indeed, if butter cannot be brought to table at least firm, if not hard, it is better to keep it away altogether. Fortunately, however, it is not

necessary to proceed to such desperate measures, as butter can be kept nice and cool in the hottest weather, and that in a very simple manner. Procure a large, new flower-pot of a sufficient size to cover the butter-plate, and also a saucer large enough for the flower-pot to rest in upside down; place a trivet or meat-stand (such as is sent to the oven when a joint is baked) in the saucer, and put on this trivet the plate of butter; now fill the saucer with water, and turn the flower-pot over the butter, so that its bottom edge will be below the water. The hole in the flower-pot must be fitted with a cork; the butter will then be in what we may call an air-tight chamber. Let the whole of the outside of the flower-pot be then thoroughly drenched with water and place it in as cool a spot as you can. If this be done over night, the butter will be as "firm as a rock" at breakfast time; or, if placed there in the morning, the butter will be quite hard for use at tea hour. The reason of this is, that when water evaporates, it produces cold; the porous pot draws up the water which in warm weather quickly evaporates from the sides, and thus cools it, and as no warm air can now get at the butter it becomes firm and cool in the hottest day.—*Scientific American.*

#### SEPTIMUS PIESS.

#### Chinese Sugar Cane---Sorgho Sucre.

TRANSLATED FOR THE "WORKING FARMER," BY  
H. S. OLcott.

During the present year, I have made the public acquainted with the various products obtained from the stalks of the Sorgho Sucre, and have shown how this plant should be cultivated. I think it well to enumerate the results which have been arrived at since that time, to say a word concerning the causes of the failures related by various experimenters, either in culture, extraction of sap from the stalks, or distillation of resou, (juice that runs from the crushed canes).

The trials made in the middle and Southern provinces of France, have confirmed my previous assertion that the cultivation of the Sorgho and that of Indian Corn, were strongly analogous. Nevertheless, several agriculturists, unwisely thinking to sensibly increase the yield have practiced numerous floodings of the field. The consequence has naturally been, that the sap yielded by the stalks under such circumstances, has only given on distillation three per cent. of alcohol, in place of five per cent. usually furnished. This unpleasant result is due entirely to the too great quantity of water contained in the stalk at the time of cutting. I repeat here, what I have previously urged, that if irrigations are necessary when the soil is dry, we should not absce this nor practice it too late.

The experiments have proved, contrary to what I have maintained, that the stalks should be gathered when the seed is first ripe. In the South (of France) it is done in September.—If the stalks are cut too soon, the juices they contain are proportionately less saccharine; if

they are cut too late, they yield a smaller quantity of sugar.

At various depots, the alcohols arising from the distillation of the expressed juice of the Sorgho have been rejected because they had an unpleasant taste. This is solely due to the crude methods of manufacture. Thus, if in place of crushing the stalks with an ordinary wine-press, they had used a regular cane mill similar to those used in the colonies, and which M. Cail, of Paris, exhibited at the World's Exposition, the yield of sap, instead of being 35 or 40 per cent., would have been increased to 50 or even 60; if instead of leaving the *resou* to remain undisturbed for several weeks after expression, it were at once submitted to distillation,\* they would never have had cause to complain of its having passed from the saccharine to the acid fermentation.

But it is not sufficient to crush the canes, or to have a special crushing mill; it is likewise necessary to submit the *bagasse* (crushed stalks) to the action of an hydraulic press.

Finally, to sum up, the stalks must be cut when the grain is ripe, crushed as soon as possible, and the distillation of the *resou* (juice) speedily attended to with suitable apparatus; those used by the farmers who have obtained their alcohols with bad flavors, being very far from complete. The stalks may also be dried, for the sugar is well preserved in the medullary structure.

The facts gathered this year concerning the produces yielded by the Sugar Sorgho, enables me to state that we can rely upon 60,000 kilogrammes per hectare of stalks, 30,000 kilogrammes sap, and 1,500 litres of alcohol at 50 "centes" of very fine flavor, and without essential oils. In Champagne even 3,000 litres were obtained last autumn.

The *bagasse* (crushed canes) may be fed to horned cattle.

As to the yield of seed, it varies from 40 to 50 hectobibres per hectare.

All other things being equal, the Sorgho Sucre is from this time forth destined to assume an important rank amongst the crops of the South (France) and Algeria. I remain convinced that, if well cultivated and well treated in distilleries, it will be for certain countries what the sugar beet is for the provinces of the north of Europe. I do not despair of hearing soon that its culture is introduced in Martinique, the last Isle of Bourbon, &c. We know that this plant is an annual, and that the *resou* which it yields contains eight to ten per cent. of raw sugar analogous to that from the cane.

If this plant, which surprises one by its height and the beauty of its stalks, be not destined to be cultivated in France for its sugar-bearing qualities, it is indisputable that it may still be regarded as one of our very best forage crops. Cut in July, in the more central portions of France, it affords an abundant green forage, springs up again, and gives in October an excellent second crop. We do not elsewhere possess

\* What, without any fermentation? Would sweet cider from the press make brandy if subjected at once to distillation? We should guess not.—ED. F. & P.

amongst the grasses, plants which offer such advantages.

I repeat that the hulls of the seeds contain a coloring matter of a bluish violet shade, which M. Secard, of Marseilles, has successfully used in the dyes for cotton and linen goods.

GUSTAVE HEUZE;

Professor of Agriculture in the  
Imperial School at Grignan.  
*Journal d'Agriculture Pratique*

Kilogramme,.....	.2 lbs. 5½ drachms.
Hectare,.....	.2½ acres.
Litre.....	2 1-9 wine pints.

**REMARKS**—Unlike the *Discorea Batatas*, which has met with very general censure from our experimenters last season, the Sorgho has fully met the expectations of its most sanguine friends. As it becomes more generally known, and new experiments are instituted upon it, we predict that it will meet with more extended favor. Its good qualities may be enumerated as follows:

1. Its cultivation is no more troublesome than that of corn.
2. It grows to full height, and will doubtless perfect its seed as far north as the latitude of Halifax.
3. It is a very profitable forage crop, giving two crops—one in July, and the other in October—of a green fodder superior to sweet corn.
4. It yields 26 bushels of seed per acre, which make a fine meal, and the hulls of which afford a good dye stuff.
5. It, together with this seed, gives also one thousand or more pounds of excellent sugar par acre, and at the same time fifty-five gallons of molasses or syrup.
6. It gives on distillation about 300 gallons of alcohol at 50 centesimal.
7. The crushed stalks may be fed to cattle, who are very fond of it.
8. If used to make syrup only, it has yielded to Mr. Peters at the rate of 468 gallons per acre.

9. The molasses may be distilled into tafia, rum, brandy, and a beverage similar to cider.

Without being champion to the extravagant speculations of some of our friends, we cannot but believe that the introduction of the Sugar Sorgho into America is of vast importance to our political economy, and we think the day not far distant when its manufacture into sugar, and distillation into the various alcohol compounds, will be largely undertaken in the Southern and Northern States.

In the letter which we translated for the *Working Farmer* last spring, M. Avequin says that the brandies, rums, &c., yielded by it, can in no wise compare with the Cognacs, but Professor Heuze, in the above article, maintains that this inferiority is entirely due to imperfect methods of manufacture. We shall see, however, in the future which view is the correct one.

The samples of syrup made by us at the Westchester Farm School, were of very fine quality, equal, we think, to good maple sugar; and that given to us by Col. Peters, of Georgia,

tasted not unlike molasses candy, or the cooked syrup on baked pears.

We esteem it our duty to afford every information in our power concerning the Sorgho, and shall translate from time to time the remarks made upon it in the French journals.

H. S. OLcott.



## The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. VIII, No. 10, : : : October, 1857.

### The Law of Newspapers.

We would call the especial attention of subscribers who intend discontinuing their paper without paying up *all* arrearages, to the following:

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher can continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they settle their bill, and order the papers discontinued.

4. If any subscriber removes to another place without informing the publisher, and their paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

5. The court has decided that refusing to take a newspaper from the office, or removing and leaving it uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of an intentional fraud.

### Erratum.

The reader will please turn to his August No., page 191, and correct as follows: Line 12 from top, first column, between "the" and "the," insert *by*, so as to read, *by the by the Cashmere, &c.*

Line 18, between "witness" and "pleasure," strike out "the" and insert *with*, so as to read, "witness with pleasure," &c.

Line 29, for "piety," read *fisly*.

Line 38, between the words "both" and "the," insert *which*, which *which* was left out in our copy. These are the only material errors we believe. Our friend Rigmarole usually writes a very plain hand, but from some cause he was somewhat nervous when he wrote this article, and our proof reader or compositor seems to have been equally "out of fix" when he attempted to read proof or to correct type.

### Col. Dogan's Proposition.

Our contributor seems to be strangely backward in this matter. Only two have signified their willingness to take a tilt, up to this time (20th Sept.)— "Broomsedge," as will be seen at page 220, Sept. No., is out as usual at his post, and so we find Perkins, Jr., in this number. But this is making slow progress towards *twenty* names, only *three* in nearly that number of months—at this rate in seventeen months our list will be complete. When Col. Dogan's proposition came out in our August number, we thought surely a sufficient number of responses would be received in time to have the judges appointed at our State Agricultural meeting in November, if not before; but here we stand in the middle of September, and but *two* names have been received!! We hope for the best, but are doubting whether any proposition having in view the advancement of the agricultural interests of our "Chivalric" State, will receive that countenance and support which the paramount importance of the subject entitles it to.

### Weeds.

Yes, friend Broomsedge has got you dreadfully in the weeds, readers, and so you must remain for at least one month. We intend, on the coming of the first white frost, to brush them out, or before that time to lay them under ground, that we may, in our next wheat crop, profit from their superior manure-producing qualities.

B. is, as we see in his last communication, becoming desperate, and is attempting to turn our anti-weed notions into ridicule, a taking argument with many readers, but one our friend need never be under the necessity of resorting to.

### The Pendleton Farmers' Society.

Our District neighbors and "surroundings," to use friend Rigmarole's convenient word, will take notice and govern themselves, accordingly, that the Anniversary Meeting and Fair of our Society will come off on the 2nd Thursday and Friday in Oct. inst., and that we anticipate a more than usual large attendance. We invite all, the ladies especially, who are, we believe, to get up a dinner, the proceeds of which will go to *their* premium fund exclusively.

From strange neglect, the Committee on premiums, have not handed in their list for publication, because (it may be) our paper is printed "monthly," instead of weekly, as was the case, we understand with our school Trustees, in preferring other papers to our own, in which to advertise. A very good excuse, provided the school was to continue only one month. We presume our former Premium List will be

adopted and acted on by the Committee with the exceptions that a bull calf is not a bull—a heifer not a cow—a stud colt not a stallion nor a yearling—mare colt a brood mare, which difficulties to decide, caused some little excitement at our last Anniversary, and which was promised to be made all as clear as mud in the forthcoming List.

#### The Chinese Sugar Cane.

Some interesting articles will be found in this number of the Farmer and Planter, in relation to the culture, &c., &c., of this God-send to our whole country. We say God-send, not *only* because every farmer and planter may in future make his own syrup, and sugar if he desires, and at not to compare with the former and present prices of these now indispensables, but for another and most important consideration, which is, the lessening the *demand* for, and consequently the price of *bacon*. Give a negro plenty of molasses, and he will thank you to reduce his daily ration of bacon at least one-half. From our own experience up to date, we doubt not Chinese Sugar Cane Syrup may be made at a cost of not exceeding 25 cents per gallon, and if so, or even at 30 cents, the saving in substituting it for bacon, only in part, must be obvious to every one.

We are at this time, (Sept. 22nd), engaged in making syrup, and with our kettle, holding 45 gallons, and a large pot, can turn off from 8 to 10 gallons daily, of well-reduced syrup. We have one of Messrs. GLAZE & Co.'s smallest sized mills, which works altogether satisfactorily. We know not what number of gallons of the juice this mill would crush out in a day. We fill our vessels in some 3 hours in the morning, when the mill is stopped till the next morning. We suppose we might keep half a dozen large kettles going all the time with this mill. We think our crop will average one gallon of syrup to between 5 and 6 of juice. We have taken the top from the greater part of our crop shortly after the head got into bloom.

We design making a small experiment to test the propriety of this course, which will be hereafter reported to our readers. We have received three samples of syrup—one from Col. J. W. NORRIS, to whom we gave a few seed last spring. One from Dr. GEORGE BROWN, of Belton; and one from Maj. J. P. REED. The samples were all good. Col. NORRIS' was the lightest colored—Dr. BROWN's next. It was reduced in a tin vessel, and was of a beautiful light amber color. Maj. REED's was reduced in an iron vessel, and consequently something darker than either of the others, but we thought—and such was the judgment of several others who tasted it and Dr. B.'s—it was the best flavored. Our Neighbors, Maj. R. F. SIMPSON, and Mr. J. V. SHANKLIN, will make, probably, some five or six hundred gallons. They are both using wooden rollers for crushing their canes, and we have no doubt loose considerably by it. We have not yet seen specimens of their syrup.

We have not space for all we intended to say on

this exciting, and at present, most interesting business, but there will be no lack of information about it. Indeed we scarcely open one of our exchanges but what has something to say in relation to it.

#### That "Side-Wipe"—State Agricultural Society—Reports, &c.

"MR. EDITOR:—Under the above caption in endorsing the views of an unknown correspondent, you have taken another side-wipe at the Executive Committee."—*Sept. No. page 215.*

We don't know when we have been more surprised than we were on reading the above remarks, too late to reply to them in our last number. If allowing a highly respectable correspondent and a member of the State Agricultural Society to express, in respectful terms, his opinions of, or dissent to, the proceedings of the Executive Committee, is "endorsing his views," or taking another "side-wipe" at the Committee, then we plead guilty to the charge. And it seems this is not the first thrust we have made at the Committee, for "One of the Committee" as above says, "another side-wipe." Will our friend inform us when and where we made the first? Does "One of the Committee" allude to our quotation from a private letter from the same writer—the "Well-known Correspondent," with our remarks on the same? (See page 196, August No.)

If so, we were most unfortunate in our attempt to shield instead of "side-wiping" the Committee, for which we have the highest respect, and whose *every* act we have endeavored to sustain, either by taking a position with them, or by pleading an excuse where others seemed disposed to blame. If "One of the Committee" will turn back to our remark just above referred to, he will find that we, instead of "taking a side-wipe at," were endeavoring to sustain the Committee.

#### To Correspondents.

T. F. P., *Black Oak*.—We cannot account for the irregular appearance of your paper, it is regularly put up with sundry other papers to your office. If you will inform us what numbers have not come to hand, we will with pleasure send them to you. Don't send by your neighbor for your paper, especially if he is not a subscriber to the Farmer and Planter, for if you do, ten to one if you ever get it.

O. P. E., *Earliestville, S. C.*—Your notice of a failure of our paper reaching you since April, has been received. We cannot account for it, our publisher seems to be positive that the paper is put up monthly for your office. We now put up for you all the numbers since April, hoping if the others have been stolen on the way, the rogue will be satisfied with them and let these pass on to you.

#### Acknowledgments.

*The Wisconsin Agricultural Society*.—D. J. POWERS Esq., acting Secretary, will accept our sincere thanks for his polite invitation to us to attend the Seventh Annual Exhibition of the above named Society, to be

held at Janesville, on the 28, 29th, and 30th of September, and the 1st, and 2nd of October (Invitation received 30th Sept.) Though impossible for us to attend, we should be greatly pleased to do so, being well aware, from the monthly evidence of our excellent exchange, the *Wisconsin Farmer*, of the prevailing and growing spirit of agricultural improvement in our distant sister State of the West.

#### Communications.

Some two or three communications have come to hand, with a request to us to get them out in our present (Oct.) number, which we much regret to say we cannot do—they are crowded out from not coming to hand before other matter that might have been left out, was set up. Our friends must send their communications in earlier if they desire them to appear in the forthcoming number.

#### The State Agricultural Society—Premium List, &c.

Our readers will of course recollect that the Anniversary Meeting and Fair of our State Society will come on as heretofore, on the second Tuesday in November, and continue through the week. Turn to the List of Premiums, which you will find in this number, and make calculations and preparations to take as many of them as possible. We trust there will be a general turn out, and that every one will be, if possible, better pleased than they were last year. Col. Marshall, of Abbeville, is, we understand, to deliver the anniversary address, and we presume, as heretofore, the Railroads will work for half price, and furthermore, we will guarantee that the good people of Columbia will have an abundance of good fare for all who may attend. Let all go who can, men, women and grown boys. We would suggest to the ladies, and would not be surprised to receive a free ticket, both up and down for it, that they contract their hoops and crinolines to their very smallest dimensions, for the purpose of close storage on the cars, for without doubt, they will have a perfect squeeze, both on the cars and elsewhere. See the following notice of the Executive Committee, received since writing the above:

**Second Annual Fair of the State Agricultural Society of South Carolina,**  
**To be held at Columbia on the 10th, 11th, 12th**  
**and 13th of November, 1857.**

The Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society of South Carolina, respectfully call the attention of the citizens of the Southern States to their approaching Fair, at which premiums will be awarded for all articles of Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical interest, as well as Ladies' Fancy

Work and Domestic Economy, embraced in an extensive Premium List, which can be had on application to R. J. Gage, Secretary, Fair Forest, S. C.

The Society has erected the best and most commodious Halls in the United States, for the convenience of exhibitors, and good Stalls for the use of animals.

All articles will be transported to and from the Fair, by the Rail Roads in South Carolina, free of charge at the owners risk.

Let one and all, from the mountains to the sea board, turn out to celebrate this annual Festival.

A. P. CALHOUN,  
E. J. PALMER,  
J. F. MARSHALL,  
A. G. SUMMER,  
J. U. ADAMS,  
D. L. HARLEE,  
R. J. GAGE.

September 18th.

#### Crops.

All that we have heard about the crops since our last, is rather unfavorable than otherwise. Cotton is doing worse and worse. Peas, potatoes and turnips no where.

#### Advertisements.

We have heretofore neglected to call the notice of our readers—especially Rail Road Contractors—to the advertisement of Messrs. SITTON & HUNTER—“Carts! Carts!!” Persons wanting good Carts or Waggons, would do well to call on Messrs. S. & H., and buy, at the lowest price going. Also, see Mr. SITTON’s advertisement of “Carriages, Buggies Waggons,” &c., &c., &c.; all of which may be had of good quality and at the lowest market prices.

We should, also, before this, have called attention to the advertisement of Messrs. MAXWELL & SEABORN, who are now well supplied with every thing in their line and fairly under way. Dr. MAXWELL being a practising Physician and a judge of the genuineness of what he uses, buys nothing but the purest and most reliable medicines—and hence, Physicians need not fear any imposition in the filling of their orders.

Mr. WINTER is also out with a most interesting notice to *Mill builders*—of which we shall say something *knowingly* in our next.

See, also, Mr. J. L. DAWSON’s *Tin Shop* notice. Mr. D. has recently set up in our village—seems to be a steady and attentive young man—with a young wife just in store—and hence needs the patronage of such as are wanting anything in his line. Mr. D. has done some work for us, which was neatly and *well* done, and with which we are well pleased. He will keep on hand the best materials, and with a disposition and ability to please, will not fail to do so.

And again. Our friend MARTIN is out with a display of his “Exquisitely beautiful Chinese Game Fowls.” Persons desirous of getting a premium of a handsome Silver Cup—which friend GAGE is now gone North for—at our next State Fair, would do well

to call on Mr. M. forthwith, as he has but few on hand, and there are none other such to be had this side of China.

#### The Lexington Flag.

We have just had No. 25, vol. 1, of the Flag laid before us, with the request to exchange, which we do with great pleasure. The Flag is published at Lexington, S. C., at two dollars, by G. A. FINK, Editor and Proprietor.

#### Leiber's Survey.

Since our remarks on Prof. Leiber's Survey in our Sept. No., we have clipped the following from one of our Columbia exchanges, the "South Carolinian," we believe, and give it to our readers with pleasure. We have not yet seen the report, but are pleased to see in the extract from the Keowee Courier, that Prof. L. has not overlooked the agricultural interests, whilst performing other duties which seemed to be of paramount importance to most of our former surveyors.

We fully agree with Prof. L. in his views respecting fences, and cannot see with friend Thompson, how it would be any more "onerous and burdensome" to the up-country than to the low. We know that the people, or a great majority of them, in the upper districts would consider a fence law an infringement on their *range* rights, and would resist it even to the knife. Yet we believe the expense of fencing to a large majority of land-holders will more than counterbalance the income from the range. Besides, such a law would force us into the farming, grazing and dairy business, the very business we should exclusively pursue in the upper districts.

Since writing the above, we find some farther accounts of Prof. Leiber's movements, by a correspondent of the Camden Journal, which we also give below.

#### LEIBER'S SURVEY.

"While spending a day at Glenn Springs, I, with others visited the Camp of Oscar M. Lieber, Esq., the State Geologist and Mineralogist. His plan of operations is to map off a District, and then examine, with minuteness and care, a section of it at a time, and when done, he moves his camp to another spot, and from it, as a centre, he circles round until he informs himself of the geological formations and mineral resources of the immediate neighborhood. In this way he has examined four Districts, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York and Chester. These engaged him for the year 1856. Union and Spartanburg will employ him fully for the present year. His examinations are unlike Ruffin's, Tuomey's, or any others, because they are minute, and, so far as I know, will likely prove satisfactory. The Legislature wisely appointed him for four years, but that time will be far too short for him to survey, in his careful manner, even the upper and mineral districts. Let us hope that our Legislators, after so fair a beginning in the right direction, will continue to exercise a liberal spirit in appropriations and support, until the resources of our

State are fully investigated and known. Several new mineral localities have been discovered. Mr. L.'s report for the year 1856 is in print, but of course must wait the action of the next Legislature before it can get into general circulation. He exhibited to us a copy got up in fine style and good taste. The geological maps of the first four districts, colored to show different formations, and to point out the kind of mineral, earth, &c., on every man's land, will certainly prove interesting and instructive, and, what is oftentimes most important, very popular. These reports, when completed, should be in every man's library, for every one will be highly pleased in knowing the character of the land he owns, and seeing his home, if not named, certainly marked off to show what rocks or minerals are about him.

"This report, I noticed, contains [a great deal] of information upon the subject of fencing—its cost, and the cost of animals kept in or out by fences. You know one of the wise sayings left us by Mr. Calhoun, is "that fences of this country cost more than its government." It may be that Mr. L. throws great light upon the question."

#### LIEBER'S SURVEY.

"We had the opportunity, during the late visit of our friendly celebrants and guests from Memphis, and our allied cities of the West, to learn that the progress of our Agricultural, Mineralogical and Geological Survey, under OSCAR M. LIEBER, Esq., is watched with attentive and intelligent interest by enlightened friends of agriculture and State improvement in other States. We had the pleasure of directing the attention of many to the lately published report of Mr. LIEBER, and have received promises of reports of similar enterprizes in sister States. We cannot too urgently commend the labors and interests of the survey to the co-operation and attentive favor of our plaiting friends in all sections of the State, as visited by the Surveyor, and to the nursing and fostering notice of the press. Our friends of the interior will find Mr. LIEBER a pleasant and instructive guide and companion through the mineral varieties of their several sections, and will be well repaid for any co-operation or assistance they may be enabled to render."

We take the following from the Keowee Courier :

#### THE SURVEY.

"The publication of Mr. Lieber's mineralogical, geological and agricultural report of last year, is likely to be productive of considerable advantage to the State at large. It has certainly been prepared with much care and labor. Mr. Lieber furnishes some interesting statistics in the agricultural division. The cost of the fences in this State is set down at \$7,948,500, and has to be renewed every ten years. He intimates therefore that it is cheaper to fence up the stock than the grain fields. Here it would be onerous and burdensome, but, in the low country, it would doubtless be cheapest. The value of our stock, according to the census returns of 1850, was \$15,060,002, as follows: horses \$96,171; asses and mules \$37,483; milch

cows \$193,244; working oxen \$20,597; other cattle \$513,935; sheep \$285,652; swine \$1,005,503. The increased value of copper is also astonishing. For the year 1856 it increased in value over \$150.00 per ton, and is always in brisk demand.

"For a quarter of a century the father, the eminent and accomplished Professor LEEBER, labored faithfully and conscientiously in developing and fertilizing the mind and mental resources of the State. The worthy son will be no less successful in his devotion to our most important material resources."

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### A Good Plow.

MR. EDITOR:—I expected to have seen the *best plows* at the State Fair last November, but was disappointed. All the cast iron mould board plows exhibited, were of most ordinary quality and of crude construction; presenting to the eye no inviting or attractive claims. All the so styled, Southern invented plows, were mere make-shifts to reconcile popular prejudices to a shade of improvement. Our Friend, R. A. Springs' Subsoil Plow was the only exception to this remark. This is simple and strong in its construction, as well as efficient in its operation. Indeed its merits are far ahead of all similar implements—and the fact that the self-styled *Professor Mapes*, appropriated and patented the idea from a description in an early volume of the Farmer and Planter, shows this is not an individual opinion of its value. With improvements of no radical importance, it is in the North the most popular Subsoil Plow now in use. We are thus minute in detailing these facts, because it is not fair that a modest man's fame should be filched from him by a pretentious Yankee Super-phosphatic humbugger. To the Forman, Warlick, Gill and Cooper plows, we have serious objections. They only go half way in the work of improvement by good plowing. They are deficient in many points, and lack leverage, the greatest principle of mechanics, applicable to the steady running of a plow. A plow with the proper leverage, a level sole, and correct curvature of the mould board, runs as smooth as a cutter boat in still water, and cleaves its way through the soil with ease and efficiency, whilst one of these modern Southern inventions, which is not five feet from the nose of the beam to the end of the stilts, is as difficult to navigate as was the famous punch bowl, in which the "three wise men of Gotham, went to sea." Without the proper adjustment of traces, back band, and elevis, it is impossible to make them run steadily; and all planters know

that it takes a sharp look out on plow heads to keep these particulars in proper trim. In the particular of leverage, there has been no improvement made in any of these plows over the "Old Rooter Stock." This latter is nothing more or less than a *one toothed harrow*, and does not deserve the name of plow. It is but little in advance of the Egyptian plow, made from the fork of a tree and fastened to the tail of a bullock, scratching up the mellow soil of the Nile Valley. So long as we cannot get over the failing which is now so rife that stirring the soil to a great depth and subverting it, is an injury, we cannot hope to see the general adoption of better models of plows than these imperfect attempts at improvement, and so long as these make-shifts are used, we will see no permanent improvement in the cultivated soil effected.

It is a strange study—the gradual improvement of the plow—from the earliest antiquity down to our day. The first great sensation was made in England by the introduction of the celebrated Rotherham plow, from Holland, under the auspices of the famous Walter Blythe, about 1730. Mr. Jefferson once presented an account of the true principles for constructing a mould board, to the Institute of France, and afterwards to the English Board of Agriculture, as an original discovery in Mathematics, and from this the honor of the invention is sometimes claimed for him. But properly to the Dutch the honor of the invention belongs. It took this plow ten years to find its way into Scotland, where James Small, of Berwickshire, made it famous in 1740. He bestowed thought, labor and genius upon the improvement of the plow, and was enabled to construct an implement upon a fixed principle, and gave it a permanent and uniform character. He gave to the mould board and share a form that could be partially imitated by others, who, following his instructions, multiplied his patterns to an indefinite extent. His improvement chiefly consisted in giving that most important feature in the plow—the mould board, a mathematical outline, which enabled it to turn the furrows over in an equal and regular manner. Before this improvement, plows were of every shape, pattern and capacity for work. The most of our Southern plantation plow-makers are now just at that point at which Small began his improvements. The Scotch plow-makers are now celebrated for substantial implements, and perhaps more economy of construction and durability is embodied in them, than in those of any other agriculturists in the

world. Of such character were the various plows exhibited by Mr. Anderson, of Chester, at our Fair. When his two horse turning plow was put into the ground, it did most effectual work, performing beautifully and with ease, both to the plowman and teams. The spectators objected to the length of the plow, and of its being wholly of iron. These were no objections with us. It was, to our notion, the best plow we ever saw, and we augur no improvement until we see such implements introduced into the planting system of the South. From the use of such implements we have hopes—but with the scratching and skinning system of operations, with which our land is cursed, we have no prospects of improvement. Agriculture will never flourish, nor impoverished land improve, until the depth of the cultivated soil is equal to all the emergencies of drought and flood. To effect this, we must have the proper plows. Put them into the lands of our laborers, with strong teams to draw them, and with thorough work, the land will again smile with the rich exuberance of productive plenty. Let us see a grand plow show at our next Fair. We will hold the stumps of Anderson's Scotch plow against any law-maker of the South. Who accepts the challenge?

AS EX-EDITOR.

*Pomaria, S. C.*

REMARKS.—Though we think our friend, "An Ex-Editor," unnecessarily severe on Prof. Mapes, yet we thank him for his communication on a subject of so much importance to the faroing interest, as the proper construction of the plow, and shall be pleased to hear from him at all times when it may suit his leisure or inclination to write for our columns.—ED.

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### Crops in Abbeville, Anderson, Pickens and Habersham—Raising Pork, &c., &c.

MR. EDITOR:—You asked me to contribute to your Journal, this is a pleasant, but difficult task, since such men as Broomesedge furnish the staple articles of your Journal.

Competent judges say I have one among the few best crops in Abbeville District, besides, my cattle and hogs are equal to those which take caps at Fairs. Hence I farm and plant. The corn crop of Habersham and Pickens, when consumed, (if humanely distributed to the citizens of each), will barely furnish a healthful supply. The same is true of the grain crop now harvested. The corn crop of Anderson and Abbeville succeeds fine crops, which were failures, and will not reach the number of bushels which an average crop ought to yield. (a).—Anderson and Abbeville have not one bushel of

wheat or corn to spare. (b). The cotton crop of Abbeville possibly may prove two-thirds of a regular average crop. For these assertions, the data are at hand if need be. In the one County and three Districts, there are scarcely the number of cattle, hogs, sheep and goats that one District should possess, upon the heels of a full crop of grain and corn.

Some interested Croakers predict that corn in Abbeville, will be bought at 40 cents per bushel—stock hogs in Tennessee sell at seven cents a pound. When these hogs are fattened and driven into Abbeville, to barter for the pork, with corn at 40 cents, will be an anomalous transaction in domestic trade. The corn of the present crop, when dry, will be worth \$1.25 per bushel.

If corn, when gathered and dried, don't sell for \$1.30 per bushel, it will pay handsomely to feed surplus to pigs and make them, when year olds, nett 150 pounds of pork. This result, each sensible subscriber will reach by addition and subtraction, during each autumn. Those indebted, and those leaving for the west, sell corn to those who do not wish to buy. This opening of the corn market has a mischievous influence upon the price of cereals. If each farmer and planter yearly raises, fattens and ores bacon enough to furnish a plentiful supply for the wants of himself and family, and negroes, and sells a supply to those in his district who do not farm or plant, he will find that the proportion which follows is necessary to a healthful supply: One acre in grain, one acre in cotton, and one and a half acres in corn. Corn is an indigino plant. It grows only on fresh or productive bottom lands. Grain grows on manured lands, and cotton follows grain.

In Habersham, Pickens, Anderson and Abbeville, there are not live stock enough for one of the Districts. This is a bad feature—however, two pig serenades we had during three weeks travel, one at Kenedy Jarrett's, and the other James Prather's, on Tugalo. This was strange music to call up hogs nightly and waste old corn upon them; this is something new. When I was a boy, every body did this, but now it is vulgar! When a citizen of Abbeville, Mr. James Prather, proved himself as a farmer and planter, to have not one superior.—He now is farming upon the Pullam bottoms upon Tugalo. Mr. James Prather told me that 1st, Crab grass didn't grow upon his bottoms. 2ndly, He could not raise stock profitably for market. 3dly, Nor could he make grain. 4thly, Cotton did not grow successfully. And lastly, Corn was not as certain as

upon the bottoms he sold to Maj. Wm. R. Rembert, near Vienna. It turns out that western Abbeville is a lucky spot for farming and planting.

Mr. Editor, I have something to say upon "Broomesedge," Weeds, Manure, Draining, Sub-soiling, the Rearing of Poultry and Stock, the culture and cultivation of Garden Vegetables, Grains, Corn and Cotton, and upon discipline of negroes, and hygiene of man and brute. I will descend from assertions and generalities to facts, experiments and laws.

J. W. JONES.

*Culhoun's Mills P. O., Abbeville Dist., S. C.*

(a). We have read this sentence over frequently but can't quite get the "hang" of it—we stick to the copy however.

(b). Surely a mistake, friend J.

REMARKS.—Mr. J. will accept our thanks for his first contribution to our sheet, we hope it will not be his last by many. We shall be pleased to hear from him on any of the subjects named at the close of his communication. We have had information that Mr. J. has not only a taste for music, but that he is at the same time, one of the most scientific farmers and planters in good old Abbeville. That his whole family, even his amiable daughter, whose excellent performance on the Piano with her brothers on the Violin, we had the pleasure of witnessing not long since at a Concert in our village— even this daughter, whose fair fingers danced so nimbly over the keys of her instrument, delights in having her *own* patch in which she is making Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural experiments. We don't know what our fast young gents, whose preference seem generally to be for sickly sentimental dolls, may say, but we say, the price of such a woman is far "above rubies."—ED. F. & P.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Reports, again---No Side-Wipe.

MR. EDITOR:—One of your anonymous correspondents begs leave most respectfully to say that as the rules of the Premium List of the State Society, or rather, I should say, the Premium List itself required *reports* from the competitors in various departments, and in the absence of information, I supposed the required reports had been made; and farther supposing that these reports were *instructive*—I desired to see them. I was anxious to learn how Dr. Parker *managed* to produce so large a yield of corn. I wished also to hear from other Indian corn competitors. There was but one report published, touching the cultivation of wheat—was there no other in that department? and so on in other departments. We old-stay-at-home-members desire to not only

know what is done at the State Fairs, but we want to know what has been done, how it was done, and how our brethren reasoned on the subjects acted on. Every farmer that reports an extraordinary crop or exhibits a superior animal, has done well for the State, but in my opinion, the man who learns others, or everybody how to do the same thing in the cheapest way, has a just claim to much more merit.

I would not insist on the Executive Committee publishing "*the remarks, suggestions, complimentary notices of animals,*" &c., &c., either of the competitors or judging committees at a disproportionate or extortionary expense, and yet these very "*remarks, suggestions and complimentary notices of animals,*" &c., &c., is just what I should be very much pleased to see.

Mr. Editor, suppose the Executive turn over to you all such matter, would you not be willing to publish all that you might consider interesting to your subscribers, free of charge to the Society? In my humble opinion, the agricultural community would be benefited by such an arrangement, without in any way injuring the State Society or you. What say you to that proposition?\* I am very anxious that the State Society shall be made to afford the largest amount of instruction to those of us that can't leave home, as well as those who enjoy the pleasant privilege of attending the Fairs.

With the *profoundest respect* for the Executive, permit me to say, I do most earnestly hope, that neither the Executive Committee nor their *immediate friends*, will consider this communication or any part of it a "*side-wipe*" at the Committee, for *I hope to be believed*, when I say the inquiry I am striving to raise in the minds of your readers is, *how can the State Society be made most useful?* without any intention on my part to "*side-wipe*" the Committee, or useless fault-finding with their management.

AGRICOLA.

September 14th, 1857.

\*We have heretofore stated that we would not charge for any such reports, many of which we have published for District Societies without even being asked to do it, for the reason that we believe them to be as valuable and interesting to our readers as any other matter whatever.—ED.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Token of Respect.

At a regular communication of Pendleton Lodge, No. 34, A. F. & M., held in Lodge room September 4th, 1857, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Architect of the Universe; in his Allwise Providence, again to visit us with the Angel of Death, and to remove our beloved Brother, BAYLIS J. MAXWELL, from this Earthly Tabernacle to that undiscovered Country from whose bourne no traveller returns; therefore—

*Resolved*, 1st. That in the death of our Brother, BAYLIS J. MAXWELL, we have lost one who was a true and faithful member of this Lodge.

2d, That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved parents and family of the deceased.

3d, That the Lodge be clothed in, and the members be requested to wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

4th, That a copy of these resolutions be sent by the Secretary, to the family of our departed, worthy brother, and that a copy be sent to the True Carolinian, Farmer and Planter, and Keowee Courier, for publication.



### Ladies' Department.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
From Josie Jonquil.

MR. EDITOR:—After your exceedingly courteous invitation to the ladies to contribute to your excellent paper, I think the daughters of Carolina ought to endeavor to help you as much as possible. And though I am only in my teens, and do not now know much about housekeeping, I hope to be very expert in that line some day, and make *one of your sex supremely happy*. I take great interest in agriculture, as every lady should do, and am a constant reader of your columns. We ladies must rub up and find out where the breadstuff comes from, and what cigars are made of, though we can't smoke them. I cannot hope to compete with Nancy; but I will do my best to write something worth publishing. I may write you an article now and then, and, perhaps, occasionally give you a little *information* regarding flowers. I love them, as my name implies. I hope your devil will not make any mistakes in this letter while he is printing it; for, in my humble opinion, it is pretty good. For the present,

Bon-jour,      JOSIE JONQUIL.

### Raising Domestic Turkeys.

A writer in one of our Agricultural Journals says: It is my opinion that farmers can raise a pound of fowl easier and cheaper than a pound of pork. Heretofore I have been unfortunate in raising turkeys, but this season I adopted a different mode—a plan of my own invention—by which I have been very successful. Others may have adopted the same course, but not to my knowledge.

Young turkeys are apt to die before they attain the age of three weeks. I came to the conclusion that the fatality among them was caused by vermin, heavy feed, and cold, damp weather. My method this season has been this: Take the eggs of the first laying and get under bark deer hens; the second laying let the turkeys hatch. Two or three days before hatching, sprinkle the nest and fowls themselves with a little fine sulphur. When the young were hatched, I took a little sulphur, gunpowder and lard, mixed, and greased their heads and necks to keep off the vermin while the young brooded. In eight or ten days repeat the dose and put on another coat.

*Mode of Feeding*.—I took equal quantities of wheat bran and Indian meal, and wet with sour or clabbered milk, with a good lot of fine-cut shives once in two or three days with it, and fed them till a month or six weeks old, then lessened the bran. Feed them early in the morning to keep them from rambling in the wet grass or dew.

Such has been my method of feeding and management, and I have lost only two out of forty hatched. Ducks managed in the same way—lost three by accidental causes out of thirty-five hatched. One, only, died while young. Chickens in like manner, with greased heads and sulphured nests—lost three in about sixty. This is my mode and my success.

### Recipe for making Candles.

EDFRESS FARMER:—I send you a valuable recipe for making candles:

One ounce of nitric acid (aqua fortis) to six lbs. good lard is found to be superior to the common alum and nitre mixture for making candles. It is also more economical as to the first cost. Melt the lard till thin enough for pouring into the mould, then pour in the nitric acid—1 oz. to six or five pounds—carefully and continually stirring the mixture during the moulding process—or a sediment will be deposited to the injury of the candles.

The above has been well tested by several of my neighbors—competent judges—and found to be a very superior method of making candles; candles so made having been sold in this vicinity at two cents a pound more than ordinary beef tallow ones, and being considered as I am told, "better than pure mutton-tallow candles."

J. W. CLARK,  
Marquette, Wis.  
[Northern Farmer.]

*To Clean Knives with Expedition and Ease.*—Make a strong solution of the common washing soda and water; after wiping them, dip the blades of the knives in the solution, then polish on knifeboard. The same would of course be effectual for forks. This simple method will no doubt greatly diminish the dislike which some servants have of this part of domestic labor.